

**Pentecost C.19;** Acts 2:1-11; 1Cor 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23; *Doing Pentecost!*

A little girl was visiting her grandmother in a small country town in the South. They attended a very emotional religious service, where people expressed their feelings by jumping a bout and shouting what we might call a “Holy Roller” service. The little girl asked her grandmother if all the jumping meant the Holy Spirit was really there. **Her grandmother said, “Honey, it don’t matter how high they jump up, it’s what they do when they come down**

**... that will tell you it is the real thing.”**

It would be good if we were a little more enthusiastic about our religion, but *what matters is what we do in everyday life*. Does the Holy Spirit have a practical effect on our daily life? **And, in what way? Let’s explore this....**

(Adapted; *Stories for All Seasons*, Fuller, p.108)

***“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”***

Today we celebrate what is perhaps the most valuable gift God has ever given us: ***the Holy Spirit***. Why would we say that? Because it’s the exact same gift that God gave Jesus at his baptism. Do you remember what happened?

Just as Jesus comes out of the water, the heavens part,

.. and the Holy Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove.

Imagine that *God loves you and treasures you* so much that God thinks **you** should receive the same blessings he has given his own Son.

**No second-rate gifts for you; only the best will do!**

When God poured out the Spirit on Jesus, God also told him, ***“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased”*** (Luke 3:22). This is yet another blessing that God shares with you! Day after day, God wants to *give you*

... the confidence of knowing that *you, too*, are God’s own beloved child.

Pentecost is about *more than what God has given you*. Pentecost is also about how God is **sending you**. Remember, Jesus told his disciples, “*As the Father has sent me, so I send you*” (John 20:21). **Let’s be very clear about this.**

*If* the Father sent Jesus out with the Spirit, *then* the Father is sending you out the same way. Stay calm, you and I are not on your own, but equipped with all the Spirit’s grace and power. Jesus is not expecting us to do all the work by ourselves!

The Spirit is always with us, offering us God’s own strength, guidance, and confidence, to help us *to continue the mission* of the Messiah, the Savior of all peoples. **But, just what is Jesus sending us out to do?**

Again, the same thing the Father sent Jesus to do: *to be a witness to divine mercy*. Jesus is sending you and I out to reveal, in our on time & place, *divine love*

by treating people with the same kindness and mercy Jesus has shown to us.

(Some ideas: *The Word Among Us*, 6/9/2019)

**2 How is this done?** People may speak different languages, they may be strangers to one another, yet a bond can be created between them, so that they become not just friends, but sisters and brothers, *a family*. Sometimes something happens that transcends language, and make it almost redundant. On a day of great joy, or great sorrow, or great danger for a community, differences of language are swept aside. People stand shoulder to shoulder.

**They find themselves of one mind and one heart.**

We are told that on Pentecost day **everyone** understood the apostles. It wasn’t that they spoke a completely new language. It was one we are familiar with, but which we tend to leave unused. *What was this language?*

It was the language of peace rather than war;

the language of reconciliation rather than conflict;

the language of cooperation rather than competition;

the language of forgiveness rather than vengeance;

the language of hope rather than despair;  
the language of tolerance rather than bigotry;  
the language of friendship rather than hostility;  
the language of unity rather than division;

**... the language of love rather than hate.**

At Pentecost the languages of division are reconciled by a language that is capable of being interpreted by all. Pentecost created from the many languages of people - one voice to profess one faith. **Though people speak in many tongues, they speak with one voice.** This *'new' language* gave rise to a new community,

the community of those who believed in Jesus, a community of faith and love. According to *Acts of Apostles, the first followers of Jesus were 'one in mind and heart'* (4:32). Through the gifts of the Spirit, people of many languages learned to profess the one faith, to the praise and glory of God.

**That is the real miracle of Pentecost. And it is a miracle that still happens.**

Our parishes are multi-cultural. We are the universal Church. We must offer warmth, friendship and hospitality to everyone. We must once again try to capture *the rushing wind and holy fire* which enveloped that Upper Room transforming

... timid disciples into, **the CHURCH!**

**Pentecost strengthens us to pursue, *unity in our diversity*, our oldest theology!**

(Some ideas: *New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies*, F. McCarthy, Pentecost C)

*At this Easter Liturgy of Pentecost*, like those first disciples who spoke in a way that everyone could understand, so today we must speak a universal language,

... the language of peace, cooperation, forgiveness, hope,

... friendship, unity and, *most of all, love.*

**Jesus continues to say, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."**

**It's time for us to "DO" Pentecost!!!**

