

He said it the same way every night. But one night
yourself, God.

'Cuz if anything happens to you, we're all sunk!'

Don't worry little fellow "cuz" the Holy Spirit has arrived!

"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire which parted and came to rest on each one of them" Acts 2:2

The disciples were careful, cautious, we might even say, they were scared. Jesus had ascended. They had returned to Jerusalem, living together in that upper room.

Then the Holy Spirit descended, and they were never the same.

Many would be martyred or imprisoned. Most likely all were criticized and ridiculed for sharing the Good News. They were cautious no more.

They knew that Jesus was with them and their mission was clear.

Now, 2,000 + years later, we are gathered in this time and place.

We, too, can err on the side of being overly cautious, hemming and hawing and, yes, even whining about not being sure what Jesus desires from us. We, too, get scared when his desires seem too humbling, or too big, or too much out of our comfort zone. But when we face our fears, throw caution to *the Wind*, then all things are possible. And we will never be the same!

My friends, Pentecost is ... the Feast of "Limitless Possibilities!"

As is was with those first disciples,

***Pentecost challenges** us to ask ourselves if we are *courageous enough* to handle the open-ended expectations demanded from anyone who prays,

"Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth."

***Pentecost asks** us to be *generous enough* to give ourselves to spreading the fire of God's love in the world as needy as it has ever been.

***Pentecost promises** that the Spirit can renew the face of the earth *through us*.

This requires our whole-hearted choice and commitment.

Carrying holy fire is serious business!

ōPope Francis has said in *the Joy of the Gospel* (EG), "*The drive to go forth and give, to go out from ourselves, to keep pressing forward in our sowing of good seed, remains forever present.*" (#21) In order to meet the challenge of continuing

to sow good seed, he reminds us that "*God's word is unpredictable in its power,*" and that "*The Church has to accept this unruly freedom of the word, which accomplishes what it wills in ways that surpass our calculations and ways of thinking.*" (#22) Celebration May 2018

Carrying holy fire is risky business, too!

2 Are you ready to change the world? Don't worry too much because the Spirit is not a one-time inspiration but a permanent indwelling of the Father's presence. Jesus tells us that we will know how to continue his mission because *the Spirit*

... that is his and declare it to you.” (Jn 16:15)

... As good St. Pope John XXIII said:
**...um keepers but to cultivate a flourishing garden
...d to prepare for a glorious future.”**

- Past performance does not limit future possibilities.

Jesus has promised that **we-you and I-** could do even **greater things** than he did. Because human potential is open to the infinite, and the infinite God is there to meet us at every turn. **The Kingdom is coming! Are you getting nervous?**

Join our large club that includes the original disciples!

The Spirit is *at work*... in someone whose job or career change disrupts well-laid plans, in the teen who leaves behind childhood things to seek a life's dream, in the retiree who pours new energy into a community project, in the widower who finds new love, or in a pastoral minister who leaves her/his parish for work in an unknown place. *America 5/20/18* **í**
And you probably know many, many more, too.

So, whether we imagine the Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, ***like a strong driving wind, tongues of fire, or a peaceful dove***, we are the same Church today

í as our sisters and brothers, ***in Christ***, were over 2,000 years ago.

Last Wednesday night our 8th Grade formally left OLPH School for the unknown and exciting horizons of High School. I said to them.... *“Here you have learned much and all this was guided by the teaching and example of Jesus, who says not only to you, but to all of us, **Just so, your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds and give glory to God.***

That is your mission. It is our mission.ö (JV 2018)

I gave them a short creed to engage their future:

Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.

Do more than believe, practice.

Do more than be fair, be kind.

Do more than forgive, forget.

Do more than dream, work. - William Ward, *Good Stuff*, April 2015, p. 15



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...e that creed and with the Spirit sow the good seeds
transform our world.

...nd blows, the Possibilities are Limitless!!!