

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith in Laity Corner*



Monday, June 05, 2017  
*Pentecost Sunday*

*Year 1/Cycle A*  
*Act 2:1-11; Jn. 20:19-23*

## *Spirit Caught, Yet?*

Wishing our Catholic faithful -Happy birthday, there are some questions we have to pose.... Today marks Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter and the end of the Resurrection Season. By tomorrow our faith calendar will return to Ordinary times and the color green. What does Pentecost really mean to the Catholic faithful? What does it mean for you? What does it mean for your church community? The scene of Pentecost displayed a literal and physical transformation of the disciples during the post-Ascension time. How many of us are *'caught by the spirit'*?

What are the *spirit caught* components of Pentecost? **WAITING**.... the disciples (*followers of Jesus both men and women*) were told to wait. Jesus told them that they had to wait for the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out His mandate to preach *'to all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father.....'* How have you been waiting, did you wait at all for the Holy Spirit? Did you even remember that there **IS** a Holy Spirit? If we are not aware then, how can we wait? The command was not only given to the disciples -2000 years ago, this mandate has been passed down to the 21<sup>st</sup> century-us. What were the promises for the Spirit? *'I will send an Advocate', 'I will not leave you orphans', 'The baptism of John was of water, the Holy Spirit will baptize you with fire.'*

Next part of Pentecost is the **PRAYER**- In the upper room, the doors were locked and the windows were closed and the group of disciples were in prayer. This was **NOT** private nor pious. It was community prayer; they came together.....

*"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,  
they were all in one place together." (Act 2:1)*

For us who think that community or congregation prayer is too much, no this is a Holy Spirit requirement!! *Hmmm*. Our community have to begin this serious pray path. There are many of us who think that once per week prayer is just enough.... **NO IT IS NOT!!** If we want the Spirit to move, there is a demand for more serious, committed prayer.... What is the weekday Mass population like in your parish? If there are people engaged in daily prayer, more Spirit power your parish will have.....

Final component -**ACTION**. The disciples were huddled in a room, waiting, praying and then, they heard...

*“A noise like a strong driving wind.” (Act 2:2)*

As in every sacrament there is the sound-wind within an enclosed room.

*“There appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.” (Act 2:3)*

Signs of what was seen.... Tongues of fire resting on each person. What happened?

*“They were all filled with the holy Spirit and  
began to speak in different tongues” (Act 2:4)*

There has been NO ONE who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to permeate in their lives and have remained the SAME - NO ONE!!! The Spirit causes, forces you to move to do the proclaiming, preaching, teaching, counselling and bring the Good News to your job, household, neighbors, school, your friends, a stranger.... to the ends of the earth.

*“We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.” (Act 2:11)*

Your mouth will find the words, people will see your sincerity, your openness, your ‘fire’!! Others will look at you and

*“They were astounded, and in amazement” (Act 2:7)  
and some “they were confused” (Act 2:6)*

They may ask what has come over him/her; but they will note the difference! You will be a whole new person – ‘*caught by the Spirit*’.

Final question: where are you? Have you waited, join in daily community prayer for the Holy Spirit to fill your heart? If you are caught by the Spirit, how has this affected your life actions and the lives of others .... if nothing has happened as yet, you have still to be *Spirit caught*!!!!

**My prayer is that God will send down His Spirit and  
empower you to renew the face of the Earth.**

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*Let us pray for the God’s healing Spirit for victims of terror and pain, victims of racial injustice and violence. We pray for our Earth and those affected by its climate and weather give us a spirit of peace will end in tragic killing, hatred, and abuse.*

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Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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Available now on the Parish App. and webpage

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

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