



Pentecost Sunday

May 15, 2016

Sunday Liturgy Guide for the Church of the Poor in the Spirit of the New Evangelization

The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives the Pentecost experience by unifying a divided world through prayer, abolition of discrimination and prejudice and sharing all in common for the Church that is charismatic and ministerial.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost Sunday. "In former times men, seized by madness, wanted to build a tower to reach heaven; but the Lord, by dividing their tongues, divided their evil purpose. So now the Holy Spirit descends upon them in fiery tongues to unify a divided world." - John Chrysostom. With this feast, the Church closes the Easter Season. With our theme for today, let us reflect on PCP-II's "A Renewed Integral Evangelization" when it says:

"PART III. A RENEWED INTEGRAL EVANGELIZATION

A. ANNOUNCING A MESSAGE OF SALVATION

"8. Special Concerns

a) Ecumenism

(217) In the Philippines, a very important

approach to Church unity would be high-level dialogues among theologians of the Churches, and moments of common prayer among Church leaders. Among the general membership of the Churches, authorized common prayers and celebrations can occasionally be done. But the best approach to ecumenism by the Catholic Church is through "spiritual ecumenism," i.e., prayer, penance and self-renewal by Catholics with the end in view of drawing nearer to Christ, and, by that very fact, drawing nearer to our separated brethren. Further, Catholics should refrain from using language and doing acts that might unnecessarily alienate our separated brothers and sisters. The annual week of prayer for unity can also be more effectively used to explain the necessity and nature of ecumenism and to urge Catholics to do their share so that all the followers of Christ may indeed, as he prayed, be one.

Points for Reflection: In your parish, have you attended any ecumenical activity? How do you feel about people who belong to different Christian churches and denominations? Have you done common prayers and celebrations with them? Have you spoken and acted in ways that were offensive and alienating to them? What do you understand by "spiritual ecumenism"? How different is this regard for ecumenism to the old teachings that we should shun people and churches of other faiths and churches, otherwise we would sin by joining them? ■

Entrance Antiphon: Rom 5: 5; cf. 8: 11:
The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

Introductory Rites

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And with your spirit.

Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters: on this Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost, let us continue to ask God's special grace to be aware of our Christian and Catholic heritage as the prophetic conscience of our people. Today let us ask for the special grace to give witness to God's love and his liberating deeds by making our gifts and talents serve the people and build the Church.

Penitential Act

P: Brethren (brothers and sisters), to prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily these sacred mysteries, let us now acknowledge our sins, and ask God for pardon and strength:

P: Lord Jesus, forgive us for causing division by discrimination and prejudice. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ Jesus, forgive us for causing division by pride, power and privilege. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, forgive us for our failure to recognize the presence of your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to

everlasting life.

C: Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P: Let us pray: O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was

fulfilled, they were all in one place together. 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. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Acts 2:1-11:

Luke associates the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church with the Pentecost in the Jewish tradition: the fiftieth day after the Passover, or God gave the Ten Commandments fifty days after the Exodus. Thus, Luke is saying: God is making a new Covenant in the new time, with all peoples and cultures of the world and with all creation through the Holy Spirit.

The new Christian Communities in Luke's time recognized the works of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was at work when people understood one another in their diversity and conflictivity and were united; when they came together for prayer and worship; when they came to the aid of one another, especially the poor, by possessing and sharing things in common, in love, service, truth, justice and peace. Today Christian Tradition celebrates Pentecost 50 days after Easter, the 7th Sunday after Easter.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures;

R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.

R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

Commentary on Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34:

This is hymn to the Creator. All created things – the heavens, the

earth and the seas, and everything in them – are all in the hands of God. By contemplating on creation, the poet discovers God and his greatness. S/he gives praise to God the creator who is pleased with his own works. Everything God has created are dependent on him: they perish without his spirit! His spirit renews them!

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

L: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

The problem existing in the Christian community of Corinth was not so much the existence of the many gifts and charism that the members have, but the pervading jealousy, competition and rivalries poised by the leaders and the privileged against those gifted little ones and poor members of the Christian community. Paul wanted this and all types of discrimination and prejudice abolished. That is why he introduced

the imagery of the “Body of Christ”: all gifts and charisms given to each one is for the good of all, especially the poor and the needy. Those leaders and privileged members of the community have no right to suppress and silence the gifts of the little ones. Rather, each one is a protagonist and participant in the construction of the Kingdom of God. Because all gifts come from the one Spirit and for the one Body, therefore, all forms and structures of discrimination, of superiority and dominion, must be dismantled. Thus Paul introduced a Church community that is at one charismatic and ministerial. Thanks to the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

Sequence - Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home Shed a ray of light divine! Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine. You, of comforters the best; You, the soul’s most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below; In our labor, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most blessed Light divine, Shine within these hearts of yours, And our inmost being fill! Where you are not, we have naught, Nothing good in deed or thought, Nothing free from taint of ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore And confess you, evermore In your sevenfold gift descend; Give them virtue’s sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia Verse:

R: Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: John 20:19-23

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

Commentary on John 20:19-23

The Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples. As a human being they knew, he showed them the marks of his physical suffering and death. This brought joy to the disciples. When Jesus spoke, his divinity also shone: he gave them the Holy Spirit that transformed them into a new creation and he entrusted to them a mission – the authority to forgive on behalf of justice and reconciliation.

Join Fr. Ben Alforque, MSC of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in **GOSPEL BREAK**, a short yet entertaining and insightful discussion of this Sunday's Gospel on YouTube.

Visit gospelbreak.wordpress.com. Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives the Pentecost experience by unifying a divided world through prayer, abolition of discrimination and prejudice and sharing all in common for the Church that is charismatic and ministerial.

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives the Pentecost experience by unifying a divided world through prayer, abolition of discrimination and prejudice and sharing all in common for the Church that is charismatic and ministerial.	Give examples of discrimination and prejudice that you experience in your parish and BEC. Are they related to power and privilege? How so? How are the persons who are differently abled (PWDs), the elderly, the sick, the non-Catholic, the non-Christian and the poor discriminated in your parish and BEC? What have you done in this regard?	The best approach to ecumenism by the Catholic Church is through "spiritual ecumenism," by Catholics with the end in view of drawing nearer to Christ, and, by that very fact, drawing nearer to our separated brethren. The Holy Spirit creates, gives gifts and renews the earth.

Profession of Faith

P: Dear sisters and brothers, let us humbly and confidently raise our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue live the Pentecost experience by unifying a divided world through prayer, abolition of discrimination and prejudice and sharing all things in common for the Church that is charismatic and ministerial. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the bishops, priests, deacons, for those in consecrated life and for all those who are entrusted with the care and administration of the church as People of God: that they may see the presence of the Holy Spirit among the poor and the lay, as essential members of the Body of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they make laws, policies and structures that promote forgiveness and cancellation of debts, equal opportunities for progress and unity of all nations. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the

earth and citizens of heaven: that we may live our lives according to the values of the new life lived in common by sharing our goods, gifts and talents as coming from the Spirit for the common good. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: For our beloved dead: that in the forgiveness of their sins, they may find eternal rest in the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

L: For our special intentions, in the silence of our hearts. (*pause*)... Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, fill our hearts with your Spirit.

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. On the feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, help us to love you and know you more, by encountering you alive in our lives and in creation, yesterday, today and tomorrow. By your Spirit, help us to strive for unity and understanding, compassion and justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. Mold us to become the gentle but firm hearts of your heart on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

P: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

C: Blessed be God forever.

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours

may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

C: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Eucharist

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right and just.

P: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing

together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

A: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation

P: The mystery of faith.

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

(Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest says:)

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Doxology

C: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Sign of Peace

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

A: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world ... grant us peace.

Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

A: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon: (Acts 2: 4, 11)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Final Blessing

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessings: May God, the Father of lights, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always abound with the gifts of the same Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples, powerfully cleanse your hearts from every evil and pervade them with its purifying light.

C: Amen.

P: And may God, who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give you perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may you journey from hope to clear vision.

C: Amen.

P: And may the blessings of almighty God, + the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy + Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia. ■

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