



[Jesus] said to them again,
“Peace be with you. As
the Father has sent me,
so I send you.”

JOHN 20:21

Spirited Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We are in a time when many seem to live with deep anger, much of which may come from fear generated by a sense of loss of control over our lives. We struggle to control the economy, our borders, the spread of disease, the violence in our cities and on our roads. Places once deemed safe—our schools, stores, and churches—have been invaded by violence. Ironically, those who feel most threatened by violence tend to turn to violence as a solution.

Do the scripture readings on this feast of Pentecost offer any hint of light as to how we might move forward?

Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans contrasts living in the flesh with living in the spirit that has been given to us. To “live in the flesh” is Paul’s code word for living by our baser instincts—lust for power, revenge, and pleasure; anger; greed—all of which focus on ourselves. By contrast, to live in the spirit is to respond not from our baser instincts but rather to choose a more noble path, to take the high road, to care for the common good. For Paul, living in the flesh is a dead end, unable to bring us to life now or in the hereafter. To live in the spirit is to live in God, already in this life. Thus, Paul cautions that we not “fall back into fear,” something that arises from our preoccupation with the flesh. ●

Reflect

What situations or “triggers” cause me to act out of my baser instincts?

Dear Padre,

My Catholic friend says she speaks in tongues and does not feel she needs an interpretation as she does so. She writes down the exchange as she listens to others. What does the Catholic Church say about speaking in tongues? How should I respond if she asks to pray for me in this way?

Good for your friend. A robust spiritual practice is a real grace from God. At the same time, it seems that a gentle reminder, albeit a respectful one, to your friend might include the wisdom of St. Paul. In 1 Corinthians, Paul cautions that the person who speaks in tongues must ask for interpretation of what is spoken so that it may be confirmed. There is real wisdom offered here. It is also helpful to remember that in the Christian understanding of supernatural gifts, such gifts are not intended solely for the individual person but always for the well-being of the community and the common good (1 Cor 12:7). Keeping this integrated and balanced understanding as an essential component of the manifestation of the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit will only lead to good and to a more powerful experience of God's grace and life. In the Christian life, it is never about just the individual, but always inclusive of the experience of our brothers and sisters in Christ. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 9 <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 Jn 19:25–34	June 10 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Cor 1:18–22 Mt 5:13–16	June 11 <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i> Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 Mt 5:17–19	June 12 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Cor 3:15– 4:1, 3–6 Mt 5:20–26	June 13 <i>St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> 2 Cor 4:7–15 Mt 5:27–32	June 14 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Cor 5:14–21 Mt 5:33–37	June 15 <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i> Prv 8:22–31 Rom 5:1–5 Jn 16:12–15

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Holy Spirit...makes believers attentive to the problems and events of their time.... We run the risk of making a museum piece out of faith...! [The Holy Spirit]...brings...the faith up to date: this is his job. [He] does not bind himself to passing epochs or trends, but brings into today the relevance of Jesus, risen and living.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, JUNE 5, 2022



PAUL HARING / CNS

Our Sunday Readings

Mass during the day:
 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11
 PSALM 104:1,24,29-31,34
 I CORINTHIANS 12:3b-7,12-13*
 JOHN 20:19-23*
 *Other passages may be chosen.

Sending the Spirit

JOHN 20:19-23

Reading closely

1. What might be the significance of when Jesus appears?
2. Why are the doors locked?
3. What are all the ways the disciples might have reacted to Jesus' appearance?
4. Why does Jesus show them his hands and side?
5. What does Jesus do for his disciples?
6. Do you think the disciples could tell that Jesus had bestowed the Spirit on them? If so, how?

Living the word

7. What do you offer others?
8. What do you need from others?
9. How can you be a better bearer of peace?

THE GOSPEL READING

Peace

Peace be with you was a familiar greeting among Jews. Peace was the great hope God's people had for the world.

Jesus' gift of peace also frees the disciples from fear, and the disciples desperately need this

freedom. As they go forth from their locked room to proclaim the gospel, they will meet resistance, hostility, and outright rejection.

For testimony

Before he was killed, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit (14:15-18). Now the risen Jesus sends his followers to continue his ministry of loving people even to death (15:12-13). They don't go alone: the Spirit makes them inseparable from Jesus. The Spirit is also the one who will speak through them, giving testimony to the truth (15:26-27).

New creations

Jesus breathes on his disciples just as God once breathed life into the first human being (Genesis 2:7). Now that these disciples share in the life that comes from the risen Jesus, they share his power to bring others into union with God. However, they will also hold people accountable for refusing to accept that Jesus brings salvation to all (v.23).

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

Reading closely

1. Who all has gathered?
2. Why have so many people gathered?
3. How do you imagine Jesus' followers reacting to the wind and fire?
4. What all might they think is happening?
5. What gift does the Spirit give? Why?
6. How might Jesus' followers feel about this gift?
7. What might each of Jesus' followers be saying?
8. If you were in the crowd, how would you respond?

Living the word

9. How can you tell when you're cooperating with the Holy Spirit?
10. Have there been times you think someone falsely claimed the presence of the Spirit?
11. Have you ever been amazed by the work of the Spirit?

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

Fulfilling his promise

In his Gospel (Book One) Luke emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is with Jesus. At the end of Luke's Gospel, Jesus promised to share the Spirit with his disciples. Today's passage from Book Two shows the fulfillment of that promise.

Claiming Pentecost

Pentecost was the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot). It was originally a harvest festival celebrated about fifty days after Passover. The feast evolved into a commemoration of God's giving of the law (Torah) on Mount Sinai, where **fire** was a sign of God's presence (Exodus 19:18).

The Hebrew word *ruah* means **wind**, **breath** or **spirit**. In this passage all three meanings are implied. God breathes his Spirit into those who believe in the saving power of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Jewish feast of Pentecost has thus come to assume new meaning for Christians.

A summary story

Right before his Ascension Jesus told his disciples that they would *be his witnesses* throughout the

world (Acts 1:8). Acts of the Apostles is the story of how the holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers to preach and build up God's church. Today's passage sums up the first part of the book: Jews from all over the world hear what God has accomplished through Jesus' death and resurrection.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3b-7, 12-13

All kinds of people

The Christians at Corinth included people of different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, education, and income levels, which led to internal division and snobbery. Some people thought they were better than others because they had better spiritual gifts.

All kinds of gifts

Paul makes it clear that every person who believes in Jesus has the holy Spirit within them and that every gift comes from the Spirit. Therefore, no one should presume to think they're better than anyone else. Moreover, the gifts of the Spirit aren't given to make people feel special but to strengthen God's church.

The Spirit's presence within individuals draws them into a community. The Spirit bestows gifts that makes the community diverse but also interdependent. The community will be unhealthy and ineffective if its members don't value each other and work together.

PRAYER

*adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Pentecost
(Roman Missal, 1985)*

Father of light,
you have enlightened the minds of your disciples
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
Bless us and give us the gifts of your Spirit forever.
May that fire that hovered over the disciples as
tongues of flame burn out all evil from our hearts
and make us glow with pure light.
May the voice of the Spirit strengthen our faith
and inspire others who need love, guidance, and
hope.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.