

# Pentecost Sunday

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Fr. Max Oliva, S.J.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth Who sets us free.

### PENTECOST:

The outpouring of the Spirit upon Jesus' disciples, men and women

The formation of the first Christian Church

Tongues of fire came to rest on each of those present

The gift of tongues – unintelligible ecstatic speech – was given to many; this is a distinct form of prayer

Scripture scholar, Roland Faley writes:

“Without Pentecost, Christ's work would have been incomplete. His death proved his love for us. Pentecost, and the gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to follow in his footsteps by putting on his mind and his heart”

We can look for 'signs of the spirit' in our lives – healing of a resentment or grudge against someone; standing up for a Gospel value when it is difficult to do so; overcoming a vice or an addiction with the help of the Spirit.

The Spirit often appears unexpectedly.

The lesson here: we can find the presence of the Spirit in the ordinary events of our lives.

What might be some qualities, or dispositions for noticing the Holy Spirit in our lives? Here are three: Humility, Openness, and Docility.

**HUMILITY:** involves a simple act of faith that I am not God and that all is gift, even the crosses I have to bear. And to acknowledge that the coincidences we experience are really God's way of remaining anonymous! Like Mike Tyrell being there on that particular evening.

**OPENNESS:** an open mind and heart, an open spirit to receive what the Spirit wishes to give me. Open to surprises, to the unexpected. Having no limit to our expectations, like the disciples had – in the First Reading.

**DOCILITY:** being teachable, accepting that I do not know everything; having an openness to learn: I am the clay, God is the potter. Here is a prayer to the Spirit that I was taught many years ago. It is called, “A Secret of Sanctity,” by Cardinal Mercier:

**A Secret of Sanctity:**

“O Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, I adore Thee.  
Enlighten, guide, strengthen, and console me.  
Tell me what I ought to do and command me  
to do it. I promise to be submissive in everything  
that Thou permittest to happen to me, only show me  
what is Thy will.”

I believe that the recitation of this prayer contributed to the realization of my Vocation.

**CONCLUSION**

The early Christians received what are known as the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, available to us as well through Baptism:

Wisdom  
Understanding  
Counsel  
Fortitude (Courage)  
Knowledge  
Piety  
And a Reverential Fear of God

In the Gospel today, Jesus imparts an 8th Gift: PEACE. His peace. “Peace be with you,” he tells the frightened disciples. This is a wonderful message for us when we are emotionally or spiritually troubled, when our body is aging and our memory is failing.

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”

This can lead us to the following prayer:

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and renew the face of the earth.”

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