



How the Holy Spirit works in our lives

A few months ago, I received a letter from a parishioner requesting our adult education committee consider offering a lecture on the Holy Spirit. This parishioner, like many of us, struggles with a solid understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit. We are all very familiar with our relationship and knowledge of God the Father and God the Son, but when it comes to our appreciation of the third person of the Trinity, God the Spirit; somehow we fall short.

This weekend, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and it is a perfect time for each of us to reflect on our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The Third Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass begins by addressing God the Father, "All life, all holiness comes from you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit." This description of the Holy Spirit gives us a glimpse into appreciating the role of the Holy Spirit. Simply put the Holy Spirit "works."

The natural question would be, "if the Holy Spirit

works, what is it doing?" There is a liturgical axiom that can help us with this question: "Lex Orandi; Lex Credendi." How we pray shows what we believe. To get a better grasp of the role of the Holy Spirit we go to the words, prayers and Scriptures we will say, pro-

claim and profess this weekend.

This Sunday's prayers of the Mass and Scriptures give us a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit. The entrance antiphon describes the "Holy Spirit holds all things together." In the opening prayer the Holy Spirit was "sent on the church to begin the teaching of the Gospel and sent into our lives to open the horizons of our mind." The spirit came upon the Apostles in our first reading and "enabled them to proclaim."

Our psalm responds,

"Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth!" St. Paul reminds us that there is one spirit at work in our lives and in the church which blesses each of us with different gifts and talents. In the Gospel from John, Jesus' disciples receive the Holy Spirit who

room on Pentecost. But we do not stop with our better understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit.

Next, we must reflect on what the Holy Spirit does in our personal lives, how it works in our hearts. All during the season of Easter, we have been privileged to hear accounts of the early church growing under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the apostles preached, healed and gave witness to the risen Lord. We must do the same with the gifts we have been blessed with at our confirmation.

Someone once told me, if you want a job done, ask a busy person. This Sunday, each of us asks the Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts and to rekindle in us the same fire of love that enabled the followers of Jesus to do great things. "Come Holy Spirit; help us do great things with our lives."

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Readings for May 11 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3-13
John 20:19-23

gives them the power to forgive sins. Our final blessing invokes the Holy Spirit to "enlighten our minds and burn out all evil from our hearts to make us glow with pure light."

Did you realize the Holy Spirit does all these things? This brief glimpse into the life and workings of the Holy Spirit is just a taste of its all-encompassing power. Yes, it is an impressive list, but not an exhaustive one. The Holy Spirit creates all things anew as you and I follow in the footsteps of the first disciples in that upper

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