



From the Pastor
Pentecost - A
May 28, 2023

Memorial Day Weekend

COME HOLY SPIRIT! Today brings **Eastertime 2023** to its climax: the **Solemnity of Pentecost**, also called 'the **Birthday of the Church.**' Some say the **Church's 'birth'** was when **Jesus** began His public ministry, which we now continue. **Saint John Chrysostom [died: 407]** believed the **Church** was 'born' on **Good Friday**, when a soldier's lance opened **Christ's** side and **blood** and **water** - signifying the **Eucharist** and **Baptism** - flowed forth. However, we DO know this: the **Church** is reborn and repopled each time a **Sacrament of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation** or **Eucharist** is celebrated. For **Christ's** Body, His **Church**, is alive and well, for she is filled with the **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

While Parishes celebrate the **Confirmation** of teens at various times of the year [ours was **Tuesday, April 25** with **45 Confirmandi!**], today is also the preferred day to confirm adults - which our Bishop graciously delegates Pastors to do. Although I must use the orations for **Pentecost** today, please prayerfully reflect on one of the three sets of orations provided for **Confirmation** as we lift up those who will receive this **Sacrament** this year. And on this Memorial Day weekend, pray for all who offered the greatest sign of love by giving their life in service to our Country.

Collect - For the Conferral of Confirmation - B

Graciously pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, O Lord, so that, walking in oneness of faith and strengthened by the power of his love, we may come to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Who lives and reigns with ... for ever and ever.
Amen.

UNITY & MATURITY. In order for us to grow into the '**measure of the full stature of Christ**' - or as we more commonly say, to become '**another Christ**' - we need the unifying and developmental power of the **Holy Spirit** - for we cannot do it alone! The **Acts of the Apostles**, the **Church's** first history book, from which our **First Reading** came from at almost every **Mass** during **Eastertime**, makes that point very clear. The **Descent of**

the Holy Spirit on those fearful **Apostles** radically changed them into bold proclaimers of the **Gospel.** And the **Holy Spirit** can do the same in and through us who are willing to accept and use His sevenfold gifts: **wisdom** and **understanding, counsel** and **fortitude, knowledge** and **piety**, and with the **fear of the Lord.**

Prayer over the Offerings - Conferral of Confirmation - B

Accept graciously these your servants, O Lord, together with your Only Begotten Son, so that, signed with his Cross and with a spiritual anointing, they may constantly offer themselves to you in union with him and merit each day a greater outpouring of your Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFIRMATION IS A START, NOT AN END. Once we receive **God's Gifts**, we are obligated to unwrap and assemble them, discover their purpose, develop them, and put them into action. As we do so, **God** gifts us again, building on what He first provides and we employ, which leads to even more gifts from **God.** Which is why, in summarizing what the **sacred Scriptures** so often suggest, **Saint Ignatius of Loyola** said, "**God will not be outdone in generosity.**"

Prayer after Communion - Conferral of Confirmation - B

Instruct, O Lord, in the fullness of the Law those you have endowed with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished by the Body of your Only Begotten Son, that they may constantly show to the world the freedom of your adopted children and, by the holiness of their lives, exercise the prophetic mission of your people. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

IF WE PLAY BY THE RULES ... As this oration notes: receiving the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** - and **Christ's Eucharistic Body and Blood** - cannot help us - unless we follow the **Law.** While that may not be the most welcomed statement, it is true; just look at current events to see what happens when we disregard **God's Law of Love!** The **Precepts of the Church**, the **Commandments, disciplines** and **obligations** are not intended to limit or restrict us, but to protect and better enable us to '**Live by the Spirit**' and to '**Become what we Receive**' in the **Eucharist.** How are you using the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

Happy Pentecost! Alleluia, Alleluia!

In Christ,

Father Mark

Rev. Mark A. Kreder, Pastor