

Pentecost Sunday *May 28, 2023*

- From the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist May 26, 1996

This is one of those rare times when we celebrate a feast that has two distinctly different set of readings for the Saturday evening Vigil Mass and the Masses on Sunday.

The first reading for the vigil comes from the Book of Genesis. The writer uses a story to tell the people how pride and the desire to achieve fame on the part of the builders had resulted in God's intervention. We are told that "the Lord confused the speech of all the world." This was a way of explaining the origin of languages and cultures. On Pentecost Sunday in the Acts of the Apostles we are again confronted with a difference of languages. "They (the apostles and disciples) began to express themselves in foreign languages....and Jews of every nation who had come to Jerusalem for the feast were much confused because each one heard these men speaking in their own languages." And they asked, "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us hears them in his native tongue."

The gospel selections for both the vigil and the feast day itself come from Saint John. First, there is the account of that time when Jesus was celebrating a festival day among the people. They were commemorating the time when water was miraculously provided for the Jewish people as they sojourned

through the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Jesus cried out "if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, let him drink who believes in Me. 'From within the rivers of living water shall flow'" And, we are told, Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit Who was to come (on Pentecost).

On Pentecost Sunday we hear John again. Only this time it is after his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. And the scripture tells us, "Then he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" The same image is used here as was used in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, when "the Lord formed man and breathed into him the breath of life; and the man became a living being." The same image that was used to describe the communication of the natural life is used here to express the communication of the new, spiritual life of a re-created humanity. The Church, having received the Holy Spirit, embodies Christ's mission of forgiveness.

At the Masses of both days, we listen to the words from the teachings of Saint Paul, in the Holy Spirit we are given the power to hope for all that we cannot see, to believe that God is alive and at work in the world through all of us. In our differences we complement the gifts of each other. Although we all possess different talents and gifts from the Lord who has created us and keeps us in existence, it is, indeed, the same Holy Spirit at work with each and every one. It is the Holy Spirit that all of us, whether Jews or Greek, slave or free, rich or poor, were baptized into the one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

圣神降临节 (5/28/2023)

天主的爱，藉着所赐与我们的圣神，已倾注在我们心中。

今天是圣神降临节，也称五旬节。耶稣完成使命升天后，派遣圣神降下，那充满奇异舌形如火的圣神顿时打开门徒的心，开启他们的眼，使他们能说以前从未说过的各种方言在来自各国聚集的人前宣扬天主伟大的作为。那些来自天下的人都神奇地听到了自己的方言。圣神也使门徒们变得异常勇敢，走出去为主基督作见证。

圣神的降临把天主跟我们基督徒新的盟约直接写在我们的心里，以代替梅瑟旧的法律。两千多年来圣神一直带领着我们圣教会忠实地履行着主耶稣交托给门徒和我们基督徒要行使的福传使命，圣化我们教会的圣事，陪伴着我们度过各种困难，黑暗，和充满挑战的时期。

现代社会人际沟通越来越少，甚至家庭成员之间也是这样。教宗方济各曾说：从来不一起吃晚饭，或晚饭时从不交流，欲只看电视或手机的家庭，不能算是一个家庭。当人们不再沟通时，冷漠就进入他们中间，彼此也听不懂对方的话。但耶稣愿意门徒们相亲相爱。恳求天父为我们派遣圣爱之神，烧热并软化人们冷漠与残酷的心。当圣神降临时，人们彼此的语言就会相通，开始交流。那就是人人都懂的【爱的语言】。祈求圣神降临在我们当中，让每个人都有【爱的语言】能力。