

May 20, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



Welcome to everyone! Welcome on this Great Feast of Pentecost! It is truly right and just that we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord's Paschal mystery on this, the last day of the Easter Season and the birthday of the Church of God. Each time we gather in prayer, at St. Leo's, we resemble the first Pentecost. I feel about this Feast like I do the Feast of the Epiphany. If we didn't bear the name St. Leo the Great, these two Feasts are so appropriate for being our parish feast days.

Look around. How evident are we of belonging to the Lord, of being filled with the Holy Spirit, of being sent to proclaim the Good news to all the nations, and of having different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit? Are there different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone? Are there different forms of service but the same Lord? Are we not the one body of Christ and doesn't this one body have many beautiful parts? Do we not speak in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God? Whether African, African – American, Guatemalan, Hispanic, Latino, European, European-American or American, in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body. Whether black, white or brown, male or female, we were all given to drink of the one Spirit. Praise be to God and thanks be to God now and always!

It is incredible that I can write to you, today, just like St. Paul wrote to the Corinthian community and use his very words. How close is our celebration to the first celebration of Pentecost? But no matter how we celebrate, the message remains the same for all of us and for the entire universal church. We are blessed to be a microcosm of the universal church whenever we gather. May we discover this blessing and appreciate it more and more each time we come together in prayer and in service especially as our mission statement directs us with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Thanks for being and living as the church of God and professing your faith so well and so generously. Let the church all say: "Amen!"

"Come, Holy Spirit, come! Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit that we might be created and renew the face of the earth!" As the Spirit will be answering this prayer in some way in each of us, what one gift of the Spirit do you want to pray for, this week, in order to assist the Spirit in answering this prayer?

Happy Pentecost, everyone and may you be on fire with the love of God for all of God's people and God's church!

Again congratulations to all of you who received one, two or all three of the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Season here at St. Leo. Congratulations to our parishioners who made first communion and/or received the Sacrament of Confirmation with their school parish communities. We look forward to you living your faith with us and passing it on just as it has been passed onto you. I give special thanks to all those who prepared the candidates for these Sacraments. I give thanks to all of the sponsors and the parents of the candidates. Again happy Pentecost and may our hearts be on fire with the Spirit's love.