

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11
Response: “*Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth*” (Ps.103:30)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1,24,29-31,34
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-17
Gospel: John 14:15,16,23-26

The disciples having not yet received the Spirit, could not fully understand the resurrection and the full reality of Risen Lord in their midst, even after he had shown himself physically and let them touch him. The Holy Spirit will teach them everything.

Living in the Spirit, they will see, not with eyes of flesh but with eyes of faith. They will be charismatic, like Christ, sharing God’s life and gifts. Here ends confusion of Babel. “*They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages*” (Acts 2:3).

The language of the Spirit is communication of power and love, uniting all into one body of Christ. “*How does it happen that each of us hears them in our own native tongue?*” (Acts 2:8). Life in the Spirit is not only how one speaks but how one believes and acts.

Such a person, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims the glory of God. “*Lord God how great you are, how many your works*” (Ps.103:24); and sees it all around, “*the earth is full of your riches*” (Ps.103:24).

The Old Testament prophetically proclaims the Spirit of God and a new age of re-creation. “*You send forth your Spirit and you renew the face of the earth*” (Ps.103:30).

St. Paul spells out the new age of the resurrection, where the Spirit makes us one in Christ, his Body, the Church. “*You are not in the flesh: you are in the spirit*” (Rom.8:9).

The same “*Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you*” (Rom.8:11). The Spirit of the resurrection and here the Father is our Father and in Christ we call him “*Abba, Father!*” (Rom.8:16).

The coming of the Holy Spirit is the fulfilment of a promise from Jesus to the faithful. “*If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate*” (Jn.14:15), the Holy Spirit who will defend and guide you.

It is the Holy Spirit who guides the Church where Sacred Scripture is fulfilled, understood, written and interpreted. “*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything*” (Jn.14:26). The Bible belongs to the Tradition of the Church, together with its, Liturgy, Teachings and Witness.

TRADITION

Scripture: Study today’s Gospel (Jn.14:15,16,23-26). Note Jesus promise of the Holy Spirit.

Liturgy: Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist and its references.

Teaching: *What are other names of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel? Their meanings?*

Witness: *What can we do for a life in the Spirit and be witnesses?*

FOR THE CHILDREN

What happened at Pentecost? See First Reading, Acts 2:1-11. (Scripture)

Which sacraments, amongst others are specially seen as receiving the Holy Spirit?
Baptism and Confirmation. (Liturgy)

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity (Catechism). (Doctrine)

Jesus Christ gave us the Holy Spirit. He told us to be witnesses (Jn.15:27). What shall we do? (Witness)

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

What are your thoughts and feelings about the Holy Spirit?

Have you had any experience or seen others experience the Holy Spirit?

Discuss the Church's experience of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:11 and in sacraments.

How would you compare the Church experience to what you have seen and felt?

The Kingdom of God is life in the Spirit. Make decisions on how to work with the Risen Lord.

RCIA

Easter is a climax of our spiritual journey. Our walk continues with the Risen Lord as we enter the great mysteries of faith. The Ascension finalizes the resurrection where Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty and together they send the Holy Spirit. With Pentecost we see the same Spirit that came into the womb of Mary to incarnate Christ, the Spirit that raised Him up from the dead, the Spirit that came down upon the early Church, with us today for the building of the Kingdom, the renewal of our lives and renewing the face of the earth."

LIFE EXPERIENCE

I had lost my patience and shouted at the alcoholic. His reaction was that this is not the real me. I was behaving like something else. It could have been his way of Dante saying: "*Fatti non foste viver come bruti ma per seguir virtute e conoscenza*" (i) i.e. 'you are not born to be like a mindless brute but to follow virtue and understanding.' As '*Imago Dei*' we are born to live a life in the Spirit and to bring it to others.

(i) DANTE Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy*. Vol.I *Inferno*. Canto xxvi: 119,120

LITTLE ANGELINA

"The Holy Ghost is not a spook," said Angelina.

"I didn't say so," I replied.

"You did," she said. "I heard you."

She was referring to the cultural example I was mentioning to her parents with regards to the liturgical translation of "And with your spirit." It seems the *curia* insisted using it in Japan, even if the only word like it in Japanese means a spook (spirit of a dead person). In Japan, it doesn't ring. It is like saying to a living person "And with your spook."

Angelina had overheard and misconstrued what I was saying. I could have told her to only listen and keep out of grown-ups' discussions but the child needs to grow. I had to explain how I understand and believe in the Holy Spirit, as third person of the Blessed Trinity, and how I pray, not as to a spook but to the living God: "**Grant that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit in Christ**" (*Eucharistic Prayer III*).

Children need explanations as they grow. The shepherd has to feed the lambs as well as the sheep. He has to help them grow in knowledge, wisdom and grace, as did Jesus as a growing child (*Lk.2:80*) and quite capable of discussion in the Temple (*Lk.2:47*). Such is dialogue, even with God, a dialectic of the Holy Spirit in the Church, from early days.

IMPORTANT WORD: השבועות (*Hashavu'oth*), Πεντηκοστή, *Pentecoste*, *Pentecost*

Hag Hashavu'oth meaning **Feast of Pentecost** is a Jewish feast, fifty days after the Passover, also known as the 'Feast of Weeks' (*Deut.16:16*), a festival of thanksgiving for the harvest. For Christians it is the time when the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles, fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. It is a moment when there was a gathering of many nations in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks. For the Church, it was a worldwide harvest, a Catholic beginning, spelling the salvation for all in Jesus Christ.

Watchword: "**And they were filled with the Holy Spirit**" (*Acts 2:4*).

Hebrew: וימלאו כלם רוח הקדש

Vayimal'u kulam Ruah haQodesh.

Greek: Και ἐπλησθησαν πάντες πνεύματος ἁγίου.

Kai eplesthesan pantes Pneumatos Hagiou.

Latin: **Et repleti sunt omnes Spiritu Sancto.**

Portuguese: **E todos foram cheios do Espírito Santo.**

Spanish: **Y fueron todos llenos del Espíritu Santo.**

French: **Ils furent tous remplis du Saint-Esprit.**

German: **Und sie wurden alle erfüllt von dem Heiligen Geist.**

Afrikaans: **Almal is met die Heilige Gees vervul.**

Zulu: **Bonke bagcwala uMoya Ocwebileyo.**

Xhosa: **Bazaliswa ke bonke nguMoya oyiNgcwele.**

Sotho: **Bohle ba tlala Moya o Halalelang.**

Irish: **Agus lionadh leis an Spiorad Naomh iad uile.**