



From the Pastor's Desk:

"Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ's Life, Death and Resurrection, we, the people of God, under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accept as our mission, the evangelization of our parishioners both active and inactive. We accept the call to bring all to a personal, Covenant relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, to live the Paschal Mystery and to promote the spiritual health and growth of everyone in our parish community." (Mission Statement of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish)

Today, in many Christian churches, Pentecost Sunday is celebrated to recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, realizing that God's very life, breath and energy lives in believers. During this service, John 20:19-23 may be the core of the message about our risen Savior supernaturally appearing to the fear-laden disciples. Their fear gave way to joy when the Lord showed them His hands and side. He assured them peace and repeated the command given in Matthew 28:19-20 saying; "as the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Then He breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23).

The celebration of Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the reality that we all have the unifying Spirit that was poured out upon the first century church in Acts 2:1-4. It is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, to suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him; that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7); that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13); and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside believers (Romans 8:9-11). This gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised and given to all believers on the first Pentecost is promised for you and your children and for all who are far off whom the Lord our God will call (Acts 2:39):1-4. It is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, to suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him; that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7); that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13); and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside believers (Romans 8:9-11).

Today, here in our parish, we must do more than just READ our parish mission statement. Anyone can read it or listen to it being preached, but we are called today to live this mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Catholic Church has performed its mission over the years and been successful, only to the degree that it has allowed the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen it. This parish church only exists because the Faith of God's Holy People of Lindenhurst allow the Holy Spirit to inspire them to support the work of Christ in the ministries of parish life.

The strength of the Holy Spirit is consistent. The Faith we have received by virtue of our Baptism is consistent in its presence. It is our active cooperation and consistency with both our Faith and the power of the Holy Spirit that is most often lacking. Often, what the Holy Spirit of God says and what our Faith tells us, takes "second place" to our human emotions, feelings and desires. We foolishly justify our lack of faith and non cooperation with the Holy Spirit, on an abundance of "worldly excuses". "I want to be good (holy), but..." and the list goes on and on of excuses which blame everyone else and everything else but ourselves. We go to confession and confess everyone else's sins (which may be true) but in the final analysis it is my sins (how "I" respond and live life even in the midst of sinfulness of others) that are important to confess and my lack of taking responsibility for "my" actions and how "I" respond or don't respond to being the good person God wants and has created me to be.

This Holy Spirit of Pentecost is the gift of God Himself united in the Love of Christ. It is a power source of God's presence given to us to activate at a moment's notice and on an ongoing basis. **"Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ's Life, Death and Resurrection..."** This EMPOWERMENT is real, and it is the only way our Parish with fulfill its mission of evangelization. Our personal future, the future of our families, our community our nation and our world is desperately in need of our living in the empowered Faith God has given us. We must witness, by our daily lives that Christ has died, Christ is risen and that Christ will come again. But, we must also accept the Great Commission together with the Apostles (Benedict XVI, our Bishop William, and all the Bishops) to go forth, empowered by the Holy Spirit to teach all nations (beginning here in Lindenhurst) by not only baptizing "them" but helping "them" by our witness, our example, to live in the name of the +Father, the +Son, and the +Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your Love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

May God +bless you and yours now and forever,

Father Anthony