

Pentecost Sunday



The day of Pentecost ushered in a new era of salvation history. With the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles and others, the Church as we know it was born. From this point forward, we witness a profound spiritual awakening take place in the lives of Jesus' apostles. After Jesus ascended into heaven, his promise of sending an Advocate to guide and protect his Church is maintained. We hear in this Sunday's first reading (Acts 2:1-4):

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of
them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.*

This was not the first time something miraculous took place during a spiritual gathering of the apostles. The Spirit tends to be active in such settings. We get to experience the life-changing energy of the Holy Spirit when we gather for recovery meetings and share a common hope rooted in the faith of our savior, Jesus Christ. Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, co-founders of 12-step recovery, were certainly touched by the Holy Spirit and guided by others. In 1940, Bill was five years sober but fighting depression and was accused of being a dry drunk by his peers. One day, a man knocked on his door.

"I'm Father Ed Dowling from St. Louis. A Jesuit friend and I have been struck by the similarity of the AA Twelve Steps and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius" (as recorded in the book *The Soul of Sponsorship* by Robert Fitzgerald, S.J.). This began a friendship that formed the spiritual development of the 12-step principles and began overlaying them with Catholic spirituality. We return to our roots and the life of the early Church when we gather to pray, share openly and honestly with each other, and celebrate our risen Lord through the sacraments.

Much like those gathered at the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit first descended upon them, we come from different backgrounds and are united in the new life offered by God's mercy. In a way, we speak a united language of recovery and can understand each other's tragedies and triumphs without having to say too much. Similarly, this Sunday's first reading continues (Acts 2:5-11):

*Now there were devout Jews from every nation
under heaven staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own
language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they
asked,
“Are not all these people who are speaking
Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native
language?”*

Let us share boldly the Good News of our Lord and let the Holy Spirit guide our recovery. We pray that God awakens us to those He may send as companions and fellow disciples along the way. We join our brothers and sisters around the world this weekend to celebrate Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is alive in us today.

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- How has the Holy Spirit influenced you and guided your recovery?
- What is it like for you to experience fellowship and feel connected with others in recovery meetings?
- How might the Spirit be inviting you to live with greater boldness, trust, or transparency today?

June Webinar: Hope for Families

*Navigating the Struggles of Addiction
with Faith & Love*

- Participate live on **Tuesday, June 10 at 7p ET/4p PT**
- Gain a deeper understanding of how addiction affects families, tools to love while maintaining boundaries, encouragement, and a renewed sense of hope
- Free for CIR+ members otherwise \$10 to register
- This and all webinar recordings available on CIR+
- For more info and to register for the webinar visit **catholicinrecovery.com/webinars**

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First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23