

**Pastor's Corner**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday is **the Solemnity of the Pentecost**, the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, the Church. Let us meditate on the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us about the Spirit:

*“On the day of the Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ’s Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance (cf. Acts 2,33-36)... By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the ‘last days’, the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated” (CCC, #731-732).*

The Holy Spirit is exactly God’s gift to the Church and each one of us: love, forgiveness, pledge and power so to bear much fruit.

First, the Holy Spirit is God’s gift of love to us:

*“God is Love (1Jn 4,8.16) and love is his first gift, containing all others. ‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us’” (Rom 5,5) (CCC, #733).*

Second, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of the divine likeness: we become adopted children of God:

*“Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit (2Cor 13,14) in the Church restores to the baptized the divine likeness lost through sin” (CCC, #734).*

Third, the gift of the Holy Spirit is the “pledge” of our inheritance which empowers us “to love as God has loved” in the person of Jesus:

*“[God], then, gives us the ‘pledge’ or ‘first fruits’ of our inheritance: the very life of the Holy Trinity, which is to love as ‘God [has] loved us’ (1Jn 4,11-12; cf. Rom 8,23; 2Cor 1,21). This love is the source of the new life in Christ, made possible because we have received “power” from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1,8; cf. 1Cor 13) (CCC, #735).*

Fourth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can bear much fruit:

*“By this power of the Spirit, God’s children can bear much fruit. ‘The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control’ (Gal 5,22-23). ‘We live by the Spirit’; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we ‘walk by the Spirit’” (Gal 5,25; cf. Mt 16,24-26) (CCC, #736).*

Finally, as the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we have the honor and duty to bear witness for

God, particularly for Christ as the only Savior of the world, that only through him, all are called to become children of God:

*“The Church’s mission is not an addition to that of Christ and the Holy Spirit, but is its sacrament: in her whole being and in all her members, the Church is sent to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity” (CCC, #738).*

Let us all pray that we may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit worthily. And in particular, let us pray for our (18) children, that they may prepare worthily by the power of the Holy Spirit to receive for the first time Jesus Christ (**First Holy Communion**) into their lives this coming **Saturday, May 17** (9:00 a.m. Mass).

May God bless all of you, especially all the candidates for First Holy Communion!

Your servant/brother in Christ,

Fr. Martin

**Rose Sale**

There will be roses for sale **after all of the Masses today (Sunday)**. The proceeds go to benefit the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Life Center in Santa Ana and the Stanton Life Center in their outreach to women in crises pregnancies.

**Liturgy Committee**

There will be a meeting for members of the Liturgy Committee this **Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room.

**Thursday Adoration**

Adoration for this **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**, will not begin until **5:30 p.m.** The usual schedule starting at 2:45 p.m. will resume next week.

**First Holy Communion**

The children in the 2nd Level CCD class will be receiving their First Holy Communion at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Our parishioners are encouraged to pray for these children and are invited to attend this special Mass.

**St. Vincent de Paul**

**Donations 5/4..... \$199.00**

**Altar Guild**

**Donations 5/4..... \$160.00**

**The Courage of a Mother**

What is a mother? A mother is the most perfect specimen of creation among human beings. The love of Jesus for His mother is so splendid that it is not only *not questioned*, but even defies description.

A good mother is fruitful, spiritually and physically. She is beloved and fair for her spouse and children to look upon, and she provides food and the shade of protection for her offspring.

However, in today’s society, there is one thing a mother needs to have that lets her stand on her own two feet. She needs **courage**:

–“after bringing children into the world and committing herself to a life of service for them.”

–“to put aside her own plans, and take time to talk to her son and daughter, to get to know them and to communicate with them.”

–“to say ‘NO’ to a teenager’s pleadings, when she knows that what they want is not for their own good.”

It is a mother’s instinct to satisfy her child whom she loves so much, with whatever the child wants, especially when it would be so much easier to say “yes”. It is difficult for her to take a stand and brave the arguments and pleadings or tantrums of a child who just can’t understand or accept why they cannot do what everybody else is doing. But this is the kind of courage a mother has to have if she wants to bring her family to Christ, instead of away from Him. And someday later, when a mother sees Christ reflected in her son and/or daughter, she will realize it was worth every sacrifice, every hurdle and every bit of courage she had to muster to implant Christ in their hearts!

**Painting Schedule for St. Mary’s**

In our efforts to beautify St. Mary’s by the Sea, we will begin the painting of the inside of the Church over a two-week period beginning on **Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 8:00 am. Mass**. The remaining schedule is as follows:

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: NO** daily Mass

**June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>: NO** daily Mass

Please note that the Church will only be closed for two days each week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). It will re-open each Thursday for daily Mass and Adoration as usual.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our parishioners, but know the Church will be more beautiful when the painting is complete.

**Mission Statement**

*Jesus comes “to serve, not to be served”*  
(Mt. 20, 28)

*St. Mary’s by the Sea is a Catholic/Christian community of faith, hope, and love, journeying together in the spirit of hospitality, stewardship, respect, unity and charity, welcoming and serving all brothers and sisters in Christ, under the mantle of Our Lady.*

**Winner of the Mother’s Day Basket**

Congratulations to **Frances Lulu** who won the raffle for the Mother’s Day Basket! All proceeds from the raffle went to benefit Little Flowers Girls Club here at St. Mary’s by the Sea.

**Jest Kidding**

A young man was waiting in the supermarket checkout line when he noticed the elderly lady in front staring at him. “Pardon me,” she said, “I’m sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. It’s just that you look like my son, who I haven’t seen in a long time.” “That’s a shame,” replied the young man. “Is there anything I can do for you?” “Yes,” she said, “as I’m leaving, will you say ‘Good bye, Mother!’ It would make me feel so much better.” “Sure,” answered the young man. Right after the lady started to leave, he called out, “Good bye, Mother!” When he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was \$127.50. “How can that be?” he asked, “I only purchased a few things!” “Your mother said that you would pay for her,” said the clerk.

**PSA Update - “Thank You”**

**93 pledges received .....\$34,356**

**Thank You**

**May 4, 2008**

**Specials ..... \$513.00**  
**Building Fund ..... \$6,740.00**  
**CCD ..... \$287.00**  
**Regular Collection..... \$4,579.00**