COMMUNION
in Love

The dramatic moment along the road to calvary and up to Jesus’ death on the Cross made the disciples disoriented and paralyzied with fear of the Jewish authorities. They all gathered in silence reflecting among themselves what would happen to their future. Their future seemed buried along with Jesus in the tomb. During the Jewish feast of Pentecost, the disciples, still afraid, celebrated in a room with doors locked but Jesus appeared in their midst bringing peace that calmed their troubled mind and heart. Then Jesus breathed unto them His promised advocate, the Holy Spirit. Thus Jesus commenced the new creation by breathing to the disciples the Holy Spirit to continue the saving mission of the Father.

The disciples received the inspiration and clearly understood the totality of the mission of Jesus. Their clouded and dim future was not only cleared but they also received a new vigor. Now the Holy Spirit would continue the work of new life and new creation under God’s Love. The mission of new life and new creation is continually inspired by the Holy Spirit in those who come and believe, opening their eyes of faith to the saving love of Father.

From our readings, we can reflect on how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples build the new creation under God’s communion and love. In the first reading St. Luke narrates how the disciples and followers of the risen Lord were able to communicate even using their native languages upon receiving the Holy Spirit that appeared as tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit created communion among communities—people capable of understanding even in the midst of differences. This is one of the faces of the new creation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit: all are one, united, and bound in the love of God. The differences of being Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, etc. do not exist anymore. All are believers, linked together by means of understanding each other, forming friendships, and learning the gift of person to others by sharing of one’s self or life. The Holy Spirit creates inspiration that unites and birds all believers under one vast community—the Church.

The Holy Spirit inspires us to be connected-moving as one under God’s leadership. In our second reading, St. Paul points out that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit members receive different gifts, diverse yet united under the Lord. We are all connected to the Lord who bestows graces and serves as our head and we are the body connected to Him. Members are called to share one’s expertise to others and at the same time are called to empower others, enabling everyone to choose how they can serve the Lord best and in whatever capacity we have “for building up the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12).

The Holy Spirit inspires us to discover love and healing. By giving strength, whenever we face challenges, the Holy Spirit reminds us that God understands us, even in our personal pain and suffering. The Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus who like us felt pain and suffering on the Cross. The Holy Spirit also reminds us that we are not alone. We are connected to each other. Such unity is manifested when we share in emotional moments and in joys by remembering visiting, and having table fellowship with other communities, say for example during festival (fiesta) gatherings. We are moved to pray for each other and extend financial and material help for communities that experience tragedies and natural calamities. Indeed believers are being connected by the Holy Spirit as they share each other’s joys and burdens.

The Feast of Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit who dwells in the Church is our guiding agent that puts together all the believers under God’s care. The Holy Spirit inspires us to be agents of unity and communion among us. By ourway of living the faith, may we let ourselves be ready to be agents of love, communion, and unity.

—Fr. Lawrence L. De Peralta, SSP

PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF ECUMENISM, INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

An Inspiring “Dialogue” Encounter
Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

We often learn much about dialogue through our experiences. Allow me to tell you a personal story that touched my heart. A few years ago while I was waiting in a Manila office before formal business hours, I found myself in a fascinating conversation with a charming young lady. Although she is presently employed in Manila, her origins are in Jolo, south-western Philippines. In the course of our brief, but friendly chat, she proudly told me how her name “Mary Ann” reflects her family which is part Muslim and part Christian.

She narrated her background: “When my parents were choosing my name, it was my Muslim grandfather who insisted on ‘Mary’ because of his admiration for Mary, the mother of Jesus (‘Isa’) Jesus is considered an important prophet in Islam. Furthermore, my grandfather urged that my second name be ‘Ann’ in honor of Mary’s mother. Thus, while according to my parents’ decision that I would be baptized a Christian, he believed that my Muslim heritage would not be lost because of the name he had chosen for me.” She concluded her story: “I’m very happy that my own name symbolizes who I am—both Christian and Muslim.”
The Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon (Wis 1:7)
(Revised when there is no opening song.)

The Spirit of the Lord has filled and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Greeting
(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P — The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All — And with your spirit.

Introduction
(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P — Dear brothers and sisters: On the very day of Pentecost “the Holy Spirit made known to all peoples the one true God, and created from the many languages of humankind one voice to profess one faith.” Announcing the peace that comes with his victory over death, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit with the power to forgive and conquer sin. Like the apostles, we are strengthened by the Spirit to face the challenges of the world. The Holy Spirit showers us with gifts.

Penitential Rite

P — Brehren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (Pause)

P — You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
All — Lord, have mercy.

P — You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.
All — Christ, have mercy.

P — You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.
All — Lord, have mercy.

P — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
All — Amen.

Gloria
All — Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P — Let us pray. (Pause)

O God, who by the mystery of today’s great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
All — Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Acts 2:11) (Sit)

Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit in tongues as of fire which rest on each of the apostles. The Holy Spirit fills them with courage to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, the new people of God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

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? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and convert to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

— The word of the Lord.
All — Thanks be to God.

Rеспонсорий (Ps 104)

R — Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
G — Sr. M.C.A. Parco, FSP

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul!/ O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!/ How manifold are your works, O Lord!/ The earth is full of your creatures. (R)
2. If you take away their breath, they perish/ and return to their dust./ When you send forth your spirit, they
are created, and you renew the face of the earth. (R)

3. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord. (R)

Second Reading
(1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13)

The Spirit is the bond of unity; his varied gifts should lead not to division but to unity and peace in our community.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS and sisters:

No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

— The word of the Lord.

All — Thanks be to God.

Sequence (Stand)

All — Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, man has naught;
Nothing good in deed or thought;
Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gifts descend;

Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia

All — Alleluia, alleluia.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Jn 20:19–23)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All — Glory to you, Lord.

ON THE EVENING of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

— The Gospel of the Lord.

All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Profession of Faith (Stand)

All — I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(At the words that follow up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — Let us ask the heavenly Father to pour the Holy Spirit upon us and aid us in our weakness, and be our advocate and guide. Full of trust, we pray:

R — Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit.

C — Father, send your Spirit to the Church and endow her with the variety of charisms and ministries that the Spirit inspires for her good. We pray: (R)

C — Father, pour out your Spirit on the leaders of our nation that they may use their power and authority in the service and liberation of our people. We pray: (R)

C — Father, fill all missionaries with your Spirit, that through their preaching of the Good News, people may come to know you and your Son Jesus. We pray: (R)

C — Father, fill the pillars of families, with grace and courage that they may guide their children to the path of love. We pray: (R)

C — Father, send your Holy Spirit to comfort the sick and the dying, and to give eternal life to those who have died. We pray: (R)

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (pause). We pray: (R)

P — God, our Father, listen to your people gathered in prayer. Send us your Holy Spirit and transform us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.
Presentation of the Gifts

P — Pray, brethren...
All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P — Grant, we pray. O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.

Preface:
The Mystery of Pentecost

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.
P — Lift up your hearts.
All — We lift them up to the Lord.
P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All — It is right and just.
P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:
All — Holy, Holy, Holy...
(Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)

All — When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer

All — Our Father...
P — Deliver us, Lord...
All — For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

 Invocation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Acts 2:4, 11)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P — Let us pray. (Pause)
O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

May God, the Father of lights, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples’ minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always abound with the gifts of the same Spirit.
All — Amen.

P — May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples, powerfully cleanse your hearts from every evil and pervade them with its purifying light.
All — Amen.

P — And may God, who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give you perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may you journey from hope to clear vision.
All — Amen.

P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All — Amen.

Dismissal

P — Go forth, the Mass is ended.
Alleluia, alleluia.
All — Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.