

May 15, 2016
Pentecost Sunday (year C)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

How did the early church survive? Against all the odds, they were able not only to survive but to build a foundation that would last. Looking back they attributed their success to the Holy Spirit. We celebrate that "coming of the Holy Spirit" today. They tended to downplay their human role in this success. We know they faced many challenges and setbacks but were able to adjust and change when necessary. Jesus didn't come back, their own people rejected them, Jerusalem was destroyed. These were major, unexpected and potentially devastating events they had to face. Yes let us celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit but let us also celebrate the decisions and hard work of the first, second and third generation of Christians who developed what we call today the Catholic Church.

Today, we as members of that same Church, face enormous challenges. We call on that same Holy Spirit to help and inspire us. I choose one of those challenges today because I am reading Christophe Galfard's book "*The Universe in your Hand*". He uses our phones to illustrate the vastness of the universe. To call a person on the moon it would take 1 second. To reach the sun: 8 minutes, 20 seconds. On our nearest next star, Proxima Centauri, 4 years, 2 months, a star in the Andromeda Galaxy: 2.5 million years. We know how to tabulate these distances because the entire universe follows strict mathematical laws of nature. Some of this scientific knowledge was unknown and unverifiable until just a few years ago. Seeing this evidence, some, including many scientists, no longer see the need of God. Even among non-scientist there is a growing number of atheists based on this new information. For them God exists only because people need such a concept to make sense of their world but in reality God does not exist. One of our best answers to this is to ask the question, "Who put these laws of nature in the universe if not God".

We have installed a new plaque in the convent garden. It contains the names of all the Christian Brothers who taught in our school. When someone saw the names of all the Sisters of Charity, he asked me why there was not a similar display for the Christian Brothers? I answered that if you came up with all the names like the Sisters did, I would put another plaque in the garden. Six months later he gave me the list. It may not be as complete as the Sisters but it is close. In my book on the history of our parish (which should be available in mid-June) I have listed in the appendices the names of all the Sister, Brothers, and Priests who served in St. Mary's.



COLLECTION: the collection for last Sunday May 8, 2016 was

\$4,273.00

The second collection next Sunday May 22, 2016 will be our monthly collection to help with our Church Property Insurance.



On this final Sunday of the Easter Season, we celebrate what some have called the "birthday of the church". Let us pray today that the promise of the church on the day of its birth may continue to be realized through God's grace in us as we attend to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

First Reading: *Acts 2:1-11 (page 39)* – the apostles preach to the people in Jerusalem; the word of God is understood by everyone who hears it.

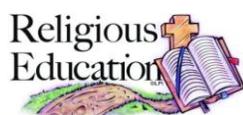
Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 104 (page 40)* - "**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!**"

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:3b-7 (page 40)* – Paul tells us that the Spirit of God makes us children of God. With the help of the Spirit, we conquer evil and live in love.

Gospel: *John 14:15-16 (page 42)* – **Jesus** appears to the community of disciples offering them his peace, commissioning them to carry on his work, and confirming the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Praying with the Word: Come, Holy Spirit, heal us, bend us, melt us, and free us to make you known so that we can set the world on fire with your love.



Religious Education News:

Confirmation:

- ❖ Candidates and Sponsors to Meet in the Hall at 6:00pm for Confirmation Ceremony-May 18, 2016
- ❖ Confirmation Ceremony-May 18, 2016 at 7:00pm

First Holy Communion:

- ❖ First Holy Communion Ceremony Group 1- May 21, 2016
- ❖ First Holy Communion Practice Group 2-May 28, 2016
- ❖ First Holy Communion Ceremony Group 2 -June 4, 2016 at



Parish Council Meeting: this month's Parish Council Meeting has been rescheduled for May 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory due to the Confirmation on May 18th, we are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.