

Pentecost: The Gifts and Charisms of The Holy Spirit

by: Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio



(A reflection on the meaning of the Feast of Pentecost and the person, gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Pentecost, originally the Jewish Feast of weeks commemorating the gift of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai 50 days after the Exodus, was the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out in the Upper Room upon the apostles and other disciples in the form of tongues of fire and a strong wind, fifty days after Easter Sunday, the day marking the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Pentecost is seen as the birthday of the Church.)

As a teen, I thought the clergy were supposed to do everything. We laity were just called to pray, pay, and obey. Oh yes, and keep the commandments, of course. The original 10 seemed overwhelming enough. Then I discovered the Sermon on the Mount and nearly passed out. Perhaps this is why many inactive Catholics are so resentful of their upbringing in the Church. For them, religion means frustration, failure, and guilt. Somehow they, and I, missed the good news about Pentecost.

OK, we Catholics celebrate the feast every year and mention it in Confirmation class, but lots of us evidently don't "get it." Because if we "got it," we'd be different. Bold instead of timid, energetic instead of anemic, fascinated instead of bored. Compare the apostles before and after Pentecost and you'll see the difference the Spirit makes.

The gospel is Good News not just because we're going to heaven, but because we've been empowered to become new people, here and now. Vatican II insisted that each of us is called to the heights of holiness (Lumen Gentium, Ch.V). Not by will-power, mind you, but by Holy Spirit power. Holiness consists in faith, hope, and especially divine love. These are "virtues," literally "powers," given by the Spirit. To top it off, the Spirit gives us seven further gifts which perfect faith, hope, and love, making it possible for us to live a supernatural, charismatic life. Some think this is only for the chosen few, "the mystics." St. Thomas Aquinas taught to the contrary, that the gifts of Is.11:1-3 (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord) are standard equipment given in baptism, that all are called to be "mystics."

Vatican II also taught that every Christian has a vocation to serve. We need power for this too. And so the Spirit distributes other gifts, called "charisms." These, teaches St. Thomas, are not so much for our own sanctification as for service to others. There is no exhaustive list of charisms, though St. Paul mentions a few (1 Cor.12:7-10, Rom.12:6-8) ranging from tongues to Christian marriage (1 Cor.7: 7). Charisms are not doled out by pastors but are given directly by the Spirit, through Baptism and Confirmation, even sometimes outside of the sacraments (Acts 10:44-48).

Do I sound Pentecostal? That's because I belong to the largest Pentecostal Church in the world. Correcting the mistaken notion that charisms were just for the apostolic church, Vatican II

had this to say: "Allotting His gifts to everyone according as he will" (1 Cor.12:11), He [the Holy Spirit] distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church" (Lumen Gentium, 12).

Powerful gifts, freely given to all...sounds like a recipe for chaos. But the Lord also imparted to the apostles and their successors a unifying charism of headship. The role of the ordained is not to do everything themselves. Rather, they are to discern, shepherd, and coordinate the charisms of the laity so that they mature and work together for the greater glory of God (Lumen Gentium, 30).

So what if you, like me, did not quite "get it" when you were confirmed? I've got good news for you. You actually did get the Spirit and his gifts. Have you ever received a new credit card with a sticker saying "Must call to activate before using?" The Spirit and his gifts are the same way. You have to call in and activate them. Do it today and every day, and especially every time you attend Mass because every sacramental celebration is a New Pentecost where the Spirit and his gifts are poured out anew (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 739, 1106). That's why the Christian Life is an adventure. There will always be new surprises of the Spirit!

(This article originally appeared in Our Sunday Visitor as a reflection upon the Scripture readings for the Feast of Pentecost Sunday.)

DON'T MISS ST. MALACHY'S



Saturday & Sunday, June 12 & 13

The Social Committee will be providing baked goods but donations from parishioners will also be needed to assure a successful fundraiser. Drop off times for baked goods are Friday, June 11 from 11am to 7:30pm; Saturday, June 12 from 9am to 6pm; Sunday, June 13 from 8am to 10am. Please bring baked goods to the Parish Hall and note if nuts were used in the recipe. For information, contact Jo-Ann Gorrasi at 781-933-0766 or Janet Coppola at 781-272-1479.

Coming Events

Wed	May 19	Scripture Study (Hall) 7:00pm
Thu	May 20	Rosary (Chapel) 7:30pm
Tue	Jun 1	Social Committee (Hall) 7:00pm
Thu	Jun 3	Rosary (Hall) 7:30pm
Sat	Jun 12	Parish Yard Sale 9:00am-2:00pm
Sat & Sun	June 12/13	Parish Bake Sale After all Masses
Sun	Jun 13	Gr 7&8 Mini-Retreat (Hall) 9:00am-2:00pm & Mass (Chapel) 2:00-3:00pm



SAT, May 22 – *St. Rita of Cascia, Widow, Religious*
 9:00am No Mass
 4:00pm **JOHN FLYNN** Memorial Mass
 (Requested by his Family)
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SUN, May 23 – *Pentecost Sunday*
 8:00am **PAUL TERRIO** Memorial Mass
 (Requested by his Family)
 10:30am **ANTONIO SILVESTRI** Memorial Mass
 (Requested by his Family)

MON, May 24– *St. Vincent of Lerins, Priest*
 9:00am Communion Service

TUE, May 25 – *St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Dr of the Church*
 9:00am Communion Service

WED, May 26 – *St. Philip Neri, Priest/Founder of Oratorians*
 9:00am Mass- No Intentions

THU, May 27 – *St Augustine of Canterbury.*
 9:00am Mass – No Intentions

FRI, May 28 – *St. Germanus, Bishop of Paris*
 9:00am Mass – No Intention

SAT, May 29 – *Sts William, Stephen, Raymond & Friends, Martyrs*
 9:00am **DOMINIC CORDIMA** Memorial Mass
 (Requested by His Family)
 4:00pm **FLORENCE M. & JOHN IOVANNA**
 Memorial Mass (Requested by their Family)

SUN, May 30 – *Pentecost Sunday*
 8:00am **MASS FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**
 10:30am **PASQUALE CAPPuccio** Memorial Mass
 (Requested by his Family)
BAPTISM PREP



PRAY FOR... The holy Church of God throughout the world; Pope Benedict XVI and all religious, especially our parish priests; all who struggle in these difficult economic times; all who have lost their jobs; all who have suffered the loss of a loved one; all who suffer from natural disasters, for the rebuilding of their lives; our military personnel; the sick and the suffering; those who are on our parish prayer list, especially Dave Anthony, John Auriemma, Michael Ciampa, K. J. Constanza, Gary and Margaret Cordova, Rosemary Crowley, William Donaghey, Kathleen Drone, Martha Dumas, Hank Leboda, Alexander Maccini, Frances McNeil, Millie Menansky, Lyman Patterson, Brenda Sheehan Jim Smith, Shirley and Ray Talbot, Sue Wright, Betty Wujcik, and their families and caregivers; and for Catherine Ciampoli who died recently.

**ATTENTION:
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENTS**

Registration packets for 2010-2011 have been mailed out to families that were registered for the current year. Be sure to read the included cover letter from Shirley Cyr encouraging early registration. We look forward to a new school year with all our current Religious Education families and eagerly anticipate meeting parents and students who are new to the area and to our programs.

Readings for the Week of May 23, 2010

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
 Day: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or 14:15-16, 23b-26

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27
 Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31
 Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Mk 10:32-45
 Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Mk 10:46-52
 Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13/Mk 11:11-26
 Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Mk 11:27-33
 Next Sunday: Prv 8:22-31/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15



Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” - Jn 14:23

25th & 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sean Cardinal O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap. invites all couples of the Archdiocese of Boston celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2010 to the Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Sunday, June 13th at 11:30am. Mass will include a renewal of vows. Family members and friends as well as the general public are welcome to attend. Please register with the parish office as soon as possible before May 28, 2010. A formal invitation and more information will be sent from the Archdiocese to anniversary couples. **Congratulations on your anniversary.**

PARISH FINANCIAL NEWS

<u>Parish Stewardship</u>	<u>May 15&16, 2010</u>
Total	\$6,061
Envelopes	\$4,571
Debt Reduction	
	Envelopes used: 145
	Loose: \$1,490
	\$1,175

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Catholic Communications Campaign \$352



JULY SCHOONER SAIL

Join us for a pleasant summer afternoon sail on the beautifully restored schooner “S.S. Lannon”. We have reserved 49 tickets for a summer sail out of Gloucester Harbor on Sunday, July 18th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and include transportation to and from the boat, the boat ride, and refreshments on board. Space is extremely limited so please contact Kathy Keady at the rectory office at 781-272-5111 or e-mail: office@saint-malachy.org for tickets. A deposit of \$20 per person is required as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

**BEING SICK, GETTING WELL,
SERVING THE SICK (3)**

Thus far I have devoted two columns to the mystery of being sick and being well. I've also addressed the centrality of gratitude—our thanksgiving to God for life and well being. I hope that these two columns have gained your interest so that I can expand further in future columns. I want to develop our thinking and reflection on the mystery of illness and sickness and the ways in which our church serves the sick.

Here is what I have in mind for future columns. First, I'd like to talk about the experience of illness and its connection to the cross and resurrection of Christ. This is what we have called the paschal (or pass-over) mystery (of Christ's dying and rising). In a very specific and special way, our experience of sickness is a share in Christ's paschal mystery.

Second, I would like to talk about how our church serves the sick through active and caring ministry and by means of prayer formats and sacramental rituals. This will include our policy and practice of visiting the sick in their homes, in hospitals, and in health care and rehab centers. This ministry of prayer, listening and accompaniment is increasingly important because our nation is becoming a gerontocracy.

I'd like to devote some columns to the sacrament of anointing the sick. We carry a lot of "old mentality" with this sacrament, especially if we are over 50. New lenses reveal a revitalized appreciation in administering this sacrament.

Third, I'd like to say something about embodiment, our models of physical ability and disability, and our mentality about treating illness. If you look around on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, it is clear that we don't seem to be a friendly environment for people with disabilities. I don't say this in a blaming way. Rather, I'm stating what seems to be the fact.

Finally, I'd like to say something about Christianity and medicine, faith alive, and care for the sick at home and in hospital. Hospitals began with Christians caring for the sick. In this way Christians lived out the virtue of hospitality. Later on, hospitals got institutionalized. Eventually they became connected with the state and government care for the common good. Now we find them to be big business – patient rights and unionization of doctors, nurses, certified nurse's aides, and building maintenance working people. Hospitals compete for your dollar and seek out the latest technology. They also are a major presence in cities, rural communities, and in neighborhoods that really need them. Today we are blessed with directives, policies, and guidelines from the national Catholic Health Association.

We are also blessed with two men who have profoundly shaped the Catholic approach to illness and persons who experience human challenge. The first is Jean Vanier, a Canadian layman, a trained philosopher, a writer and caregiver at L'Arche (The Ark—as in Noah). His hands on involvement in L'Arche communities and his public witness have touched thousands of lives. The other man is the late Father Henri Nouwen, a psychologist and teacher, a spiritual mentor and a Christian seeker. He remarkably brought biblical spirituality, psychology, and pastoral care together. I shall write a bit about these two men in future columns. Both have a lot to say about spirituality and life today.

John J. O'Brien C. P.

PRAYERS FOR MOTHERS DURING MAY

During the Month of May there will be a book for prayer intentions and prayers of thanksgiving in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother to the right of the main altar. Please write in names, intentions, and prayers of thanksgiving for mothers and those who serve in motherly roles. Names written in the book will be remembered at all our liturgies during the month of May.

A DAY TO HONOR MARY, MOTHER OF LIFE

You are invited to **A Day to Honor Mary, Mother of Life**, Thursday, May 27th at Anthony's of Malden, 105 Canal Street. Doors open at 3pm. The award-winning movie "Bella" will be shown with remarks by Kelly Roy on "How this movie is saving lives"; a buffet will be served; keynote speaker is Theresa Gorey, pro-life advocate and counselor; Randy Albright, writer/musician will present A Musical Celebration to Mary; and a name from the audience will be drawn for the Crowning of Our Lady. Tickets are \$30 and may be ordered online or by check sent to Eternal Life Radio, PO Box 589, Medford, MA 02155. For further information please call (781) 218-2834 or e-mail info@eternalliferadio.org.

*Help us spread the word -
Share this information with your friends!*

CROWNING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

"It brought back pleasant memories" one lady said about the procession following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 16th as an age-old custom was revived here at St. Malachy Church. The procession and crowning of statues of our Blessed Mother was led by the children who received First Eucharist recently and a significant number of those who had attended Mass joined in for the ceremony honoring Our Lady. The event was planned and guided by Shirley Cyr, Director of Religious Education, and music was provided by Ken Meltz, our Pastoral Associate. Light refreshments were served in the Parish Hall after the event.

SAVE THE DATE - PARISH YARD SALE



Date: Saturday, June 12
Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm
Space: \$20 rental per table
**Donations are needed for the White Elephant Table
(Proceeds from this table go to the Parish.)**
**Volunteers are needed --
(This is a great Christian service project.)**
**For further information,
please contact Mary LoPreste at 781-221-4822
or e-mail: mtgreat3@rcn.com**