

# PENTECOST

## CYCLE B

Acts 2: 1-11

Galatians 5: 16-25

John 15: 26-27, 16: 12-15

### OPENING PRAYER

*(Members gather around a lighted red candle while “Veni Sancte Spiritus” from Laudate! Music of Taize or a version of “Come Holy Spirit” is played. The community then pauses for several minutes in silence.)*

**Leader:** Come, Holy Spirit, stoke the holy fire of evangelization in us today that we may spread the message of salvation with renewed vigor and loving deeds. Take away our complacency and replace it with a new sense of gratitude for all the gifts you continue to give us daily. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### COMMENTARY

So many times in the liturgy and in other prayers we hear the phrase, “. . . in the unity of the Holy Spirit.” It underscores the triune nature of God because the phrase most often comes after mention of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is by nature a unifier.

In the first reading this week, the Holy Spirit comes in great power and enables the disciples to tell of the “mighty acts of God.” There is a *unity of message* and, in the conveyance of the word in one tongue, but understood by all, a *unity of communication*.

Paul tells the Galatians (and us) about the magnificent fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These virtues promote unity among people, while the “works of the flesh”, as he lists, cause fracture in families, friendships and even in more far-reaching relations. The virtues draw us into a deeper personal unity with God, while the works of the flesh drive us away from him.

The good news in Jesus’ farewell discourse to his apostles is that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will come to guide them to all truth. He promises, in effect, that they will be united with the Truth which is the Triune God. The Advocate will help them to understand the revelation they have received and will receive in the future, and dispel the darkness of confusion, sin and fear. The apostles will have a unity of purpose: to testify to others about the Truth and thereby build up the body of Christ. Their Advocate is our Advocate as well!

As we pray in the doxology at Mass: “Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.”

## FAITH SHARING AND INTEGRATION

- ◆ Which fruit of the Holy Spirit do you see especially present in your life right now? How so?
- ◆ Speak of a time in which you have experienced the Holy Spirit as Unifier, perhaps in a family, parish or friendship situation.
- ◆ How do you understand “*living in the Spirit*”? Tell of a time you felt alive in the Spirit.
- ◆ When have you recently experienced the Holy Spirit as guide?

## RESPONSE IN ACTION

- ◆ Call your diocesan office and inquire about Life in the Spirit Seminars that might be taking place in your area. Participate in one.
- ◆ Read **Baptized in the Spirit and Spiritual Gifts**, by Steve Clark, Dove Publications, Pecos, NM, 1976. It is available through

Charismatic Renewal Services, 1-800-348-2227.

- ◆ Spend twenty minutes in quiet prayer this week asking the Holy Spirit to come with unity and truth into an area of your life where there is conflict or disparity. Ask for the fruits of the Spirit to be renewed in your life.
- ◆ Attend a charismatic prayer meeting. Bring a friend.
- ◆ Be a unifier in a situation of conflict in the week ahead. Acknowledge the conflict; respect it; help to resolve it charitably and justly.

## SENDING FORTH AND CLOSING PRAYER

*(The community prays in two alternating groups.)*

- I: Lord, now was Your promise fulfilled that “You would not leave us orphans... That You would come to us again.”
- II: Pentecost was like a new Christmas. In Bethlehem, You were born to us in Your Body and Soul which would suffer for us and redeem us.
- I: This day of Pentecost, You were born again in a new Body, Your Mystical Body, the Church. The Church is You, Lord, You extended into place and time – reaching out in every century and every place “to seek and save what is lost.”
- II: On Pentecost the disciples and their successors became Your Lips, Your Hands, and Your Heart!
- All: Lord, thank you for your gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to be fruitful as we spread the truth of your kingdom. Amen.

*From My Meditations on Saint Paul, Rev. James E. Sullivan,  
M.S., Brooklyn, NY, Confraternity of the Precious Blood, 1967,  
p. 2.*

*(Members exchange a sign of peace.)*