

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23	Pentecost Sunday May 23, 2010
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Word: Disciples of Christ have love for one another.

Theme: We are disciples of Christ when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
[Commitment to Growth]

Promise: *“When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”* (Ps 104:30)

Reflection:

“O Lord, if you take away the breath of your creatures, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your breath, they are created, and thus you renew the face of the earth.” (Ps 104: 29-30).

The one feast that most, if not all of us in Community relate to, is the feast of the Pentecost, or the Feast of the Holy Spirit, also known as the birthday of the Church. We were once dead because of our sins and transgressions, but through our sacramental baptism, we entered into the life of Christ, and were delivered from the wrath of God. It was, however, through our baptism in the Spirit during our LSS that we first encountered the *‘Pentecost experience’*, that moment of overflowing grace when the Lord Jesus breathed His Holy Spirit upon us and we came to understand that we are saved by the loving mercy of God who sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us. Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice on the cross gave Him the power to gift us with His Holy Spirit which empowers us to live again as new creations. Without the Holy Spirit, Christ’s church will have no life, and His teachings will come to naught. But Christ’s death is God’s victory, His triumph our redemption, therefore, if we are in Christ, we too are victorious over sin and death. The Holy Spirit as the Third Person of our Triune God is the life force within us; without whom, we will have no power to do the mighty works entrusted to us, and no power to resist Satan and sin. For only through the power of the Holy Spirit are we truly able to love and live in harmony with one another.

The word spirit comes from a Latin *“spiritus”* meaning, breath and wind. The Greek term used in the original language of the gospel is *“pneuma”* which also means breath and wind. Both terms, *spiritus* and *pneum*, have a Hebrew equivalent, the word *“ruah”*, which also means breath and wind.

In the gospel, Jesus breathed on His disciples before sending them on their mission, *“‘As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ Then he breathed on them and told them: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive man’s sins, they are forgiven. If you hold them bound, they are held bound’* (unforgiven),” (Jn 20: 21-23). From what Jesus did, we can surmise that breathing on His disciples before sending them to preach was a live-giving act, an act as of second creation. The very breath of God is the very life that gives power to each and every one called to be His disciples. This incident is followed by His discourse on forgiveness, which is the message of God’s love and our salvation. To forgive one another, just as He has forgiven us is to go beyond one’s selfishness or self-centeredness, and to reach-out to others in love and

compassion, for the love of Christ. It is a call for repentance and self-sacrifice, a form of surrendering to the heart of Jesus, to an experience of new life. This breath of God blows like a wind to us, renewing us, transforming us, even uprooting, breaking and destroying the things that block us from His love. It is up to us open ourselves up to the great wind of the Spirit to carry us to our ultimate goal and to finish the race that has been set before us. It is an every day challenge for a Christian, to stay focused and faithful to the teachings of Jesus, through His word and the sacraments vested in the Church He instituted. This challenge brings us to our theme this week - **We are disciples of Christ when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit and promise** - ***“When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth,”*** (Ps 104: 30).

Like the first disciples, we too have been given the Holy Spirit and His gifts. We need to exercise these gifts so we can live renewed lives in Christ. With Jesus in us, we can be made instruments in the renewal of others. But we need to constantly examine ourselves for the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life: ***“Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”***

Prayer

Lord, the more we strive to act according to the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit in our lives, the more we realize that truly You are the Master who turns our burdens into blessings. You are the hope that we lean on, as your mercy endures forever. Help us in our need, especially in those weaknesses, that prevent us from truly loving others, as You love us. Grant us the courage to exercise the gifts of Your Holy Spirit and be instruments in changing the face of the earth. This we pray in Jesus Name. Amen.

Suggested Personal Reflection:

As a disciple of Christ in the BLD Covenant Community,

1. Do I exercise the commandment of love given to us by Jesus as I relate to fellow community members?
2. What are the barriers, impediments in my expressions of such love? What must I do to overcome them?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

May 24, 2010 (Mon):	1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9-10; Mk 10:17-27
May 25, 2010 (Tue):	1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31
May 26, 2010 (Wed):	1 Pt 1:18-25; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 10:32-45
May 27, 2010 (Thur):	1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12; PS 100:2-5; Mk 10:46-52
May 28, 2010 (Fri):	1 Pt 4:7-13; Ps 96:10-13; Mk 11:11-26
May 29, 2010 (Sat):	Jude 17:20-25; Ps 63:2-6; Mk 11:27-33

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”