

The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + MAY 2020



Pentecost Sunday rounds out the month of May with the descent of the Holy Spirit. Two Pope's discuss how the Spirit acts in our lives and in the Church. Page 3.

Words of
WISDOM

Some quotes to provoke meditation while we have the time. Page 6.

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What's Happening...

On Friday, May 1, at 3 p.m. EDT, the United States will be reconsecrated to Mary under the title of "Mary, Mother of the Church," whose image is shown above.

As the world continues to face the ongoing effects of the global pandemic of the coronavirus, our Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., will join with bishops across the United States as well as from Canada in renewing the consecration to the care of our Blessed Mother.

The Fall River Diocese's online brief liturgy with the prayer of reconsecration will take place on Friday, May 1, at 3 p.m. EDT. To join the live stream and take part go to www.facebook.com/fallriverdiocese, the Fall River diocesan Facebook page. *(Continued on page 2)*

What's Happening . . . Continued from page one

We may obtain a copy of the prayers for the consecration in advance at this website:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/consecration-usa-mary-mother-of-church.pdf>

Bishop da Cunha is inviting priests and lay men and women of the Fall River Diocese to participate virtually as well, so that the prayers of all will be joined together in seeking the support and protection of the Blessed Mother at this critical time.

EWTN is also covering the event on TV beginning at 2 p.m. with a Holy Hour before the Reconsecration. On Comcast that is Channel 56.

Technology Brings Us the Comfort of the Mass

During the pandemic, many of us have turned to our television sets, computers and/or smart phones to be able to “attend” Mass. Many of us have become familiar with the two Catholic channels in our area — EWTN and the Catholic Channel [Channel 268 on Comcast] — in addition to the Mass for the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. and the Rosary said at various times on TV during the day.

Father Michael offers his private Mass in the church or the chapel at various times during the day and it is then uploaded to Facebook. We are able to access the Mass Father prays by accessing stfrancishyannis.homestead.org, the parish website and clicking on VIDEOS on the left of home page.

Jesus' Real Presence in the Tabernacle and Adoration

But with St. Francis Xavier Church open seven days a week from dawn to dusk, we are still able during the day to dwell in the Real Presence of Our Lord and Savior, who is present in the Tabernacle and then exposed in the Monstrance for Adoration from noon to 3 p.m. every day.

It is possible to follow all the precautions suggested to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19 while being present at the church. Social distancing, wear a mask, etc.

Our Neighbors Seek Help From St. Vincent de Paul

The need is growing for assistance from St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry as more of our neighbors are without paychecks and jobs.

The Food Pantry has remained open during this time of pandemic. We wish to thank these brave and gracious men and women who are providing food for our neighbors.

In a recent email, the President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society - Hyannis at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Deleta McMullin wrote concerning those at the food pantry: “From what they tell me, we are providing about 50 families a week with food. We had 6 deliveries today to people who cannot get out to pick up food.

Support the Society by sending monetary contributions to 21 Cross St., Hyannis MA 02601

The Pope's May Prayer Intention

For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be to the Father.



The Holy Spirit

Pentecost Sunday Celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples.

But What Is His role in the Church and our Lives?

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that Paul asks the disciples of John the Baptist had they already received the Holy Spirit, and their reply was that they had never heard that there was a Holy Spirit.

During a homily at his daily mass at the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis noted that even today, there are Christians who don't understand the Holy Spirit. They think of a dove and don't realize the Holy Spirit is He who brings us to abide in the Lord: "He is the guarantee, the strength to abide in the Lord," Francis said.

As we read about the baptism of Our Lord by John the Baptist, we remember the appearance of the dove and a voice saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." That's usually when we become aware of that image of the Holy Spirit as a dove.

When we received Confirmation, the comparison of the sacrament to Pentecost added another image to our thoughts of the Holy Spirit, that of tongues of fire as descended on Our Lady and the disciples on Pentecost, and a great wind.

But who is behind those signs of a dove, wind and tongues of fire? We call the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the Consoler. Since Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, many popes have written about the Holy Spirit — formerly known as the Holy Ghost — and His role in the life of the Church and our own lives.

Intercessor, Consoler, and Teacher

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Divinum Illud Munus* on the Holy Spirit, explained: "It is consoling to recall those assurances which Christ gave to the body of His disciples a little before He left the Earth: 'It is expedient to you that I go; for if I go not, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you' (1 John 16:7). In

these words He gave as the chief reason of His departure and His return to the Father, the advantage which would most certainly accrue to His followers from the coming of the Holy Ghost, and, at the same time, He made it clear that the Holy Ghost is equally sent by — and therefore proceeds from — Himself and the Father; that He would complete, in His office of Intercessor, Consoler, and Teacher, the work which Christ Himself had begun in His mortal life. For the redemption of the world, the completion of the work was by Divine Providence reserved to the manifold power of that Spirit, who, in the creation, 'adorned the heavens' (Job 26:13), and 'filled the whole world' (Wisdom 1:7)."

In his discussion of the Holy Trinity in the encyclical, the Pope noted: "The Church is accustomed most fittingly to attribute to the Father those works of the Divinity in which power excels, to the Son those in which wisdom excels, and those in which love excels to the Holy Ghost." Pope Leo went on to say the Holy Ghost "is the life-giving Love" and cited "the indwelling and miraculous power of the Holy Ghost; and the extent and efficiency of His action, both in the whole body of the Church and in the individual souls of its members, through the glorious abundance of His divine graces. "

The Spirit and the Church

"For He who is the Spirit of Truth, in as much as He proceeds both from the Father, who is the eternally Truth, and from the Son, who is the substantial Truth, receives from each both His essence and the fullness of all truth," the Pope explains. "This truth He communicates to His Church, guarding her by His all powerful help from ever falling into error, and aiding her to foster daily more and (Continued on page 4)

The Holy Spirit

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more the germs of divine doctrine and to make them fruitful for the welfare of the peoples. And since the welfare of the peoples, for which the Church was established, absolutely requires that this office should be continued for all time, the Holy Ghost perpetually supplies life and strength to preserve and increase the Church. 'I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you for ever, the Spirit of Truth' (John 14:16, 17)."

The Spirit and the Souls of the Just

The Pope then turned his attention to the laity: "The manner and extent of the action of the Holy Ghost in individual souls is no less wonderful, although somewhat more difficult to understand, in as much as it is entirely invisible. This outpouring of the Spirit is so abundant, that Christ Himself, from whose gift it proceeds, compares it to an overflowing river, according to those words of St. John: 'He that believeth in Me, as the Scripture saith, out of his midst shall flow rivers of living water,' to which testimony the Evangelist adds the explanation: 'Now this He said of the Spirit which they should receive who believed in Him.'"

Pope Leo quotes St. Paul: "Know ye not that your members are the temples of the Holy Ghost, who is in you, whom you have from God?" The fullness of divine gifts is in many ways a consequence of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost in the souls of the just. For, as St. Thomas teaches, 'when the Holy Ghost proceedeth as love, He proceedeth in the character of the first gift; whence Augustine with that, through the gift which is the Holy Ghost, many other special gifts are distributed among the members of Christ.'

"Among these gifts those secret warnings and invitations, which from time to time are excited in our minds and hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Without these there is no beginning of a good life, no progress, no arriving at eternal salvation. And since these words and admonitions are uttered in the soul in an exceedingly secret manner, they are sometimes aptly compared in Holy Writ to the breathing of a coming breeze,



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— Pope Leo XIII

and the Angelic Doctor likens them to the movements of the heart, which are wholly hidden in the living body. "Thy heart has a certain hidden power, and therefore the Holy Ghost, who invisibly vivifies and unites the Church, is compared to the heart."

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Leo continues: "More than this, the just man, that is to say he who lives the life of divine grace, and acts by the fitting virtues as by means of faculties, has need of those seven gifts which are properly attributed to the Holy Ghost. By means of them the soul is furnished and strengthened so as to obey more easily and promptly His voice and impulse. Wherefore these gifts are of such efficacy that they lead the just man to the highest degree of sanctity; and of such excellence that they continue to exist even in heaven, though in a more perfect way.

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The Holy Spirit

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“By means of these gifts the soul is excited and encouraged to seek after and attain the evangelical beatitudes, which, like the flowers that come forth in the spring time, are the signs and harbingers of eternal beatitude. Lastly there are those blessed fruits, enumerated by the Apostle (Gal. 5:22), which the Spirit, even in this mortal life, produces and shows forth in the just; fruits filled with all sweetness and joy, in as much as they proceed from the Spirit, "who is in the Trinity the sweetness of both Father and Son, filling all creatures with infinite fullness and profusion."

The Lord and Giver of Life

Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Dominum et Vivificantem, On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World*, begins: “The Church professes her faith in the Holy Spirit as ‘the Lord, the giver of life.’ She professes this in the Creed. . . It also contains the statement that the Holy Spirit ‘has spoken through the Prophets.’

“These are words which the Church receives from the very source of her faith, Jesus Christ. In fact, according to the Gospel of John, the Holy Spirit is given to us with the new life, as Jesus foretells and promises on the great day of the Feast of Tabernacles: ‘If any one thirst let him come to me and drink. He who believeth in me as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ And the Evangelist explains: ‘This He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive.’ It is the same simile of water which Jesus uses in his conversation with the Samaritan woman, when he speaks of ‘a spring of water welling up to eternal life,’ and in his conversation with Nicodemus when he speaks of the need for a new birth ‘of water and the Holy Spirit’ in order to ‘enter the kingdom of God.’

“The Church, therefore, instructed by the words of Christ, and drawing on the experience of Pentecost and her own apostolic history, has proclaimed since the earliest centuries her faith in the Holy Spirit, as the giver of life, the one in



... Under the influence of the Paraclete, people discover this divine dimension of their being and life . . . they are able to free themselves from the various determinisms which derive mainly from the materialistic bases of thought, practice and related modes of action.

— Pope John Paul II

whom the inscrutable Triune God communicates Himself to human beings, constituting in them the source of eternal life.”

Perservering in the Spirit

“In the midst of the problems, disappointments and hopes, desertions and returns of these times of ours, the Church remains faithful to the mystery of her birth. While it is an historical fact that the Church came forth from the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, in a certain sense one can say that she has never left it.

“Spiritually the event of Pentecost does not belong only to the past: the Church is always in the Upper Room that she bears in her heart. The Church perseveres in preserves, like the Apostles together with Mary, the Mother of Christ, and with those who in Jerusalem were the first seed of the Christian community and who awaited in prayer the coming of the Holy Spirit,” John Paul noted.

“To him turns the Church, which is the heart of humanity, to implore for all and dispense to all those gifts of the love which through him ‘has been poured into our hearts.’” +

Words ^{OF} F WISDOM

"Here is a rule for everyday life: Do not do anything which you cannot offer to God."

— **St. Jean Marie Vianney**

"No one can fail to understand that the Divine Eucharist bestows upon the Christian people an incomparable dignity. Not only while the Sacrifice is offered and the Sacrament is received, but as long as the Eucharist is kept in our churches and oratories, Christ is truly Emmanuel, that is, 'God with us'. Day and night He is in our midst, He dwells with us, full of grace and truth. He restores morality, nourishes virtues, consoles the afflicted, strengthens the weak. He proposes His own example to those who come to Him that all may learn to be, like Himself, meek and humble of heart and to seek not their own interests but those of God. Anyone who approaches this august Sacrament with special devotion and endeavors to return generous love for Christ's own infinite love, will experience and fully understand—not without spiritual joy and fruit—how precious is the life hidden with Christ in God and how great is the value of converse with Christ, for there is nothing more consoling on earth, nothing more efficacious for advancing along the road of holiness." — **Pope St. Paul VI**

"Without the sacraments of the Church, primarily the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper as it is sometimes called, I certainly do not think that I could go on. I do not always approach it from need, or with joy and thanksgiving. After thirty-eight years of almost daily Communion, one can confess to a routine, but it is like a routine of taking daily food. But Jesus Himself told us at that last supper; Do this in memory of me. (Lk 22:19)

— **Dorothy Day**

"Everything that exists is a gift from God. Yet oftentimes we look to the things and creatures created by God for a satisfaction and fulfillment that only God Himself can provide. When the soul wraps itself around the things and the people of this world, looking for satisfaction or fulfillment that only God can give, it produces a distortion in itself, and in others as well.

"Many spiritual writers call the process of unwinding this possessive, self-centered, clinging, and disordered seeking of things and persons 'detachment'. The goal of the process of detachment is not to stop loving the things and people of this world, but, quite to the contrary, to love them even more truly in God, under the reign of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Things and people become even more beautiful and delightful when we see them in this light.

"There are almost always painful dimensions to this process of 'letting go' in order to love more, but it's the pain of true healing and liberation. Christian detachment is an important part of the process by which we enter into a realm of great freedom and joy."

— **Ralph Martin**, Excerpt from
The Fulfillment of All Desire

Letter of Pope Francis to the Faithful for May

Encouraging the Praying of the Rosary at Home Adding Two Prayers

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

***Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist
FRANCIS***

First Prayer

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,



I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

— Pope Francis

who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

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Letter of Pope . . .

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We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer

*“We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God”.*

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.



Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, PRAY FOR US
WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO YOU**