

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost and Love Beyond Boundaries

Pentecost is a Greek name for a Jewish harvest celebration. It also became a Christian festival of the experience of God in human life. The Jews spoke of YEKARA glory, the glory of God expressed in human conduct. Pentecost is a celebration of the glory of God grounded in human experience. The context of Pentecost gives space for the distinctly Christian notions of the Spirit of God. We have no control over the Spirit of God, and neither does any other religion. As Jesus said, the Spirit, like the wind, blows where it wants to at the behest of God.

The Pentecost experience also says that those who look to the heart of God can expect to experience what it means to be loved by God. The young people who come to be confirmed today and receive the laying-on-of-hands by the Bishop can receive the experience of the God who loves us. This comes like any other form of love in that it cannot be measured or defined. There is never anything automatic about love as given and received. The poets have stretched their minds and their hearts to interpret what love means, and sometimes they have been broken in the process. The prophets tried to express it and they were broken by people who could not understand the passion of their words and their love of God.

The sacraments have the stamp of Pentecost on them. They are “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.” The bread and wine in the Eucharist today are only bread and wine unless they are authenticated by the Spirit of God. The Confirmation service itself is a ritual that is empty unless it is filled with the presence of God. Baptism leads to Confirmation in this Church, but the water of Baptism is just water if it is not infused with the Spirit. Luther said that in Baptism the Word was in the water, and that word for us is ultimately Jesus. Wherever he walked in Galilee, there was the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit was in his words and in his deeds and most of all in his Person.

Pentecost is not so much about doctrine, though we affirm in the Creeds our faith and trust in the Holy Spirit of God. Pentecost is about the reality of God. God appeared to Moses in a burning Bush, and the Holy Spirit appeared to the first Christians in the fire of Pentecost.

Every time our hearts are lifted up in a glorious hymn, every time we put out our hands to receive the sacrament, we are acknowledging the presence of the hovering Spirit, as at Creation: “Come and hold in your hands and touch with your lips a love that we can never fully comprehend” are words that are used at the invitation to communion in this church.

Be conscious of the presence of the Spirit of Jesus as you ‘walk’ through the ritual (“set words”) and the ceremonies (“directed movements”) of this service led by your Diocesan Bishop. It is so In-Spiring!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Today.

- Interment of Johnny Manning’s ashes, 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, 29 May.

- Bible study, 10am
- Group Discussion @ the Tutton’s, 7:30pm (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati

Thursday, 31 May.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

REMINDER:

June 3, Trinity Sunday. [*Special joint service at 9:00 a.m. followed by potluck lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parish Office.*]

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

EXODUS 3: 1-6

PSALM 93

ROMANS 8: 12-17

JOHN 3: 1-16