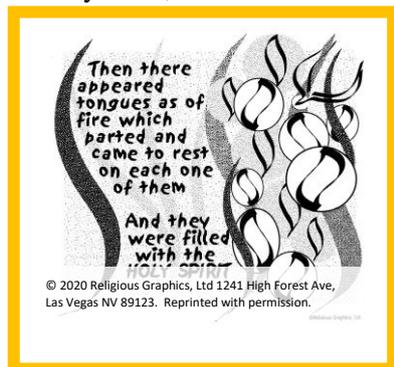


Observing the Lord's Day

Commemoration of the Sending of the holy Spirit (21B)

23 May 2021, Father Slowiak. Edited from printed and audio sources.



Bishop Callahan has distributed a diocesan policy for the gradual reopening of parishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist on Sunday with members of the same household sitting together, others at social distancing.

We understand face coverings/masks to be an element of prolife, a sign of one's respect for the common good.

We will continue to stream the Sunday 10:00 am celebration.

*** The vaccines have made a difference and living is reopening. This being said and with a greater number of parish members gathering on Saturday and Sunday, this is the final edition of **Observing the Lord's Day**.**

L = Leader (Certainly rotate within a family and the role of the Leader); A = Assembly

Opening Rite

L Romans 5:5

The love of God has been poured into our hearts . . .

A through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alle-lu-ia.

L In the name of . . .

A the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L Father, send Your [holy] Spirit into our lives and by Your wisdom open the horizons of our minds. Loosen our tongues to sing Your praise and announce the truth that Jesus is Lord. Clothe us now with power from on high Father, that we may confirm Your good news to the brokenness of the world by the sin of our concern for one another. Amen. – based on the Sacramentary of 1975

The Texts

Our Bibles or the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://uscgb.org> then, Bible, Today's Reading for the texts

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11. (65-75 AD) At the time of this writing the resurrection of Jesus has been carried to the Greek territories but Luke places sending/awareness of the holy Spirit in the context of the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a harvest festival where many would be gathered and many languages spoken. The point? God is not confined to a particular people.

1 Corinthians 12:2-13. (54-57 AD) . . . apparently a movement was stirring in the community of believers who 'spoke in tongues,' the spirit-people. Paul clarified that is not about them but the holy Spirit empowers them.

John 20:19-23. (110-115 AD). John has the holy Spirit steps in the eveing of the Third Day, there is no Jerusalem gathering and direct relationship between Jesus, the holy Spirit and the disciples.

A Reflection

According to the Big Bang Theory, the universe is the product of an explosion of a highly charged particle in the ancient past. Fr James Smith writes that religion can accept that possibility. We

would put it in more humble form, “Once upon a time, God squeezed all of matter into a tiny pin-head, then opened his hands and let it escape in the form of billions of stars.”

The evolution of human intelligence is monumental and religion add that humankind was a mutation and that human beings are of God’s passion to love one who that could love God in return.

The Big Bang Theory is both nostalgic and tragic. The universe is running toward certain death. The religious outlook, well, Pope John XXIII wrote: “We are on earth not as museum-keepers but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life and to prepare for a glorious future.” We do not believe that Creation was God’s finest hour. Nor was Jesus the closest that God will ever come to us. Nor was the Resurrection God’s grandest feat. Nor was the sending of the Spirit God’s last gasp. God’s mighty deeds for our ancestors did not wear God out. Past performance does not limit future possibilities. Jesus promised that we could do even greater than he because human potential is open to the infinite, and the infinite God is there to meet us at every turn. –a digest of a commentary by one, Father James Smith.

General Intercessions

L We pray and call on the intercession of the risen Christ Jesus who sent the holy Spirit.

1. Direct out openness to what seems impossible — world peace, the end of economic poverty, justice that is life-giving, healing of dying relationships. We pray.
2. Guide us to know when to act and when to hold still, when to speak and when to keep silent. We pray.
3. Help us to genuinely acknowledge those who are gifted as artists and musicians, writers and poets; engineers and those of the trades. We pray.
4. Bring to children and all young people safety, well-being, spiritual growth and protection from all that is evil. We pray.
5. Holy Spirit bring divine guidance to those who are sick or suffer, those who are dying and those who are afraid to die. We pray.

Sitting at the Table with Christ Jesus (A spiritual communion)

- L Risen Christ Jesus, Your ministry among us was like a purging fire that opened the minds of many to view God, not in childhood images but in an adult relationship that is life giving. Present to us but having ascended, the holy Spirit in God’s design, in Your design, stepped in by Your choice and the many gifts, if we open them, reveal Your real presence sacramentally. We long to settle ourselves more calmly in this presence. Then, too, You have called us to join in living Your vision. Be with us as we attempt to continue Your mission, Lord Jesus and so let the news of the gospel ring. Amen.

Closing

L Risen Christ Jesus, remind us of the many gifts of the holy Spirit that are give to each of us. Opening them, we know we will become more fully human and fully live.

L In the name of the Father . . .

