

June 3-4, 2017

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

First Corinthians 12:3-13

John 20:19-23

PENTECOST is happening right now...today. For some kid in a small town, algebra suddenly makes sense and his future has been changed. A teenager in France decides to go up and introduce herself to a Syrian refugee family and her world is forever bigger. In Korea a man dreams of the North and South being one people again...and since he is the new President of South Korea, he decides to give it his all. A newly married couple on the East Coast accepts lucrative employment in California and their future will be rewritten from what they always imagined because of the impending move. At Santa Clara our newly transitioned Eight Graders from St. Francis are pondering fresh beginnings and new challenges while throughout Orange County graduates from UCI, CSUF, Chapman, Concordia and other higher educational schools are embarking on lifetimes yet to be fully defined. As much as Ascension was about the ending of Jesus' post-resurrection physical presence here on the earth, PENTECOST is the BEGINNING made possible by Ascension's ending. Sometimes called the birthday of the Church, Pentecost is our annual celebration of the Holy Spirit continually recreating the Church to better reflect the mercy and love of God. Not an easy task because people easily become entrenched in that with which they have become comfortable...to the point of insisting that 'how something has been done' is the ONLY way and must remain the ONLY WAY for all time. We need only look at the confused, anxious (and sometimes angry) responses to Pope Francis's gentle nudge to welcome and accompany people who are divorced and remarried without benefit of a Church annulment back to the Eucharistic table so as to receive Communion. Something that has already been quietly occurring and encouraged by thousands of priests and bishops for decades, the Holy Spirit, through Pope Francis, is seeking to NORMALIZE the mercy of God...what a concept! As dough requires kneading in order to eventually become bread, so our human progress requires the DIVINE UNSETTLING of the Holy Spirit's presence and actions. What may appear a setback can become the regrouping for fresh initiatives. What seems a tragedy becomes the inspirational 'blood of the martyrs' that fuels societal changes. The Holy Spirit, not asking our permission nor requesting our consent, continually roils all of creation. Our task, especially as disciples of Jesus, is to look, watch, pray, embrace, pray some more, and go where the Spirit leads.

Thank you for sharing PENTECOST with our Santa Clara community. As the Easter Season officially comes to a close, all around the world the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is freshly being embedded within the hearts and minds of millions of people...no matter their age, race, religious affiliation (or non at all) or life circumstances. Sometimes best understood in HINDSIGHT, the gifts and blessings for which we will be grateful in the years to come are being sown within our lives TODAY! With that in mind, please take a Bulletin with you so that you can stay current on the newest happenings here at Santa Clara. **Please note that there are NO 8:30am WEEKDAY MASSES this week due to the annual Priest Retreat.** While June has just begin, please mark the last weekend, June 24-25 as our **SummerFest-Food Fair**...if you wish to participate or help...or offer a favorite food item for our parish family to enjoy, please give a call to Gisela and Jason Mobraaten at 714-809-1630. Lastly, **Father's Day** weekend is approaching in two weeks, special envelopes to enroll your dads, living or deceased in the June Masses are available at the exits. As you enjoy these first fresh days of June, please know that you are loved. FKB

