

# Read



**Acts of the Apostles**

**2:1-11**

**Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30,  
31, 34**

**Romans 8:8-17 or**

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,  
12-13**

**John 14:15-16, 23b-26 or  
20:19-23**

## LIVING THE WORD

### Solemnity of Pentecost

June 9, 2019



#### REFLECTION

Ever passed a bonfire on the beach and felt drawn to the circle? Fire invites. Campfires or bonfires represent an opportunity to build community through sharing stories and singing songs. Contained, it is beautiful, warms us, and can even provide enough heat to feed the whole family if you know how to cook over an open fire. Uncontained and it can destroy a house or a forest depending on the conditions. The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples in the form of a flame and so ignites their passion and faith that they begin to speak in tongues! As Advocate, the Holy Spirit remains with the disciples spurring them to travel all over to preach the Good News. The fire of the Holy Spirit ignites their passion for the Lord and they are compelled to share their faith in the Risen Lord.

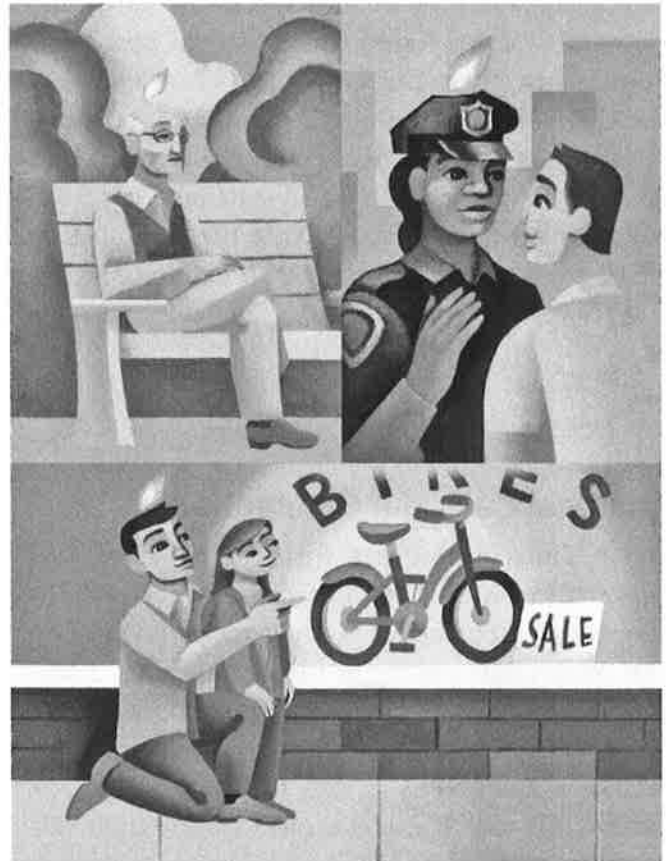
#### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Who in your community may need to hear Jesus' voice through your evangelization?
- ❖ How do you feel about being an evangelist as the early disciples were?



#### ACTION

Build a campfire in an appropriate receptacle in your backyard or at a park or beach. Make sure to check your local ranger station in case air quality begs you to avoid lighting a fire. If all is clear, gather a group of friends or family around the campfire and join each other in song and sharing of your faith journey so far. Bringing your community together creates a lasting memory and reminds everyone their call to evangelize and share the Gospel.





June 9, 2019

## SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

### LECTIONARY #63C

Mass during the Day

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Romans 8:8-17 or 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Sequence: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

John 14:15-16, 23b-26 or John 20:19-23

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

Today's readings are focused on the Holy Spirit. We are told the story of the Holy Spirit's descent, we are reminded of how we have life in the Spirit that is eternal and good, and we are shown how Jesus promised the gift of the Spirit long before it arrived. The Gospel is the penultimate promise of the greatest gift Jesus will give his Apostles after his death: the Holy Spirit. It is a powerful statement the Lord makes to his followers, assuring them of all that will be given to them should they remain in and live in his love.

**Q FOCUS:** *To rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Easter Time culminates with the Solemnity of Pentecost, a day of rejoicing because the Holy Spirit has been given to us. This day is meant to abound with celebration and joy at the idea that Jesus fulfilled his promise to the Apostles that he will send an aid and guide for their journey in this life. This promise is made to us as well, fulfilled in us at our Baptism and reinvigorated at our Confirmation. We

celebrate this day, and this "Pentecost week," that although Easter Time has come to an end it continues with us because we are an Easter people all year round.

### Church Teaching Connection

"We are the fruits of this mission of the Church through the working of the Holy Spirit. We carry within us the seal of the Father's love in Jesus Christ which is the Holy Spirit. Let us never forget this, because the Spirit of the Lord always remembers every individual, and wishes, particularly through you young people, to stir up the wind and fire of a new Pentecost in the world" (Pope Benedict XVI, *World Youth Day Message*, 2008).

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

*John 14:15-16, 23b-26*

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Today Jesus is making a promise: that he will not abandon the Apostles, but will instead strengthen them in their mission to establish his Church.

Today's First Reading is the fulfillment of that promise made in today's Gospel. (*You may need to reread this reading to provide a context for teens.*) Gathered in the upper room, perhaps out of fear and trepidation of what awaits them in a world that has rejected Christ Jesus, tongues as of fire appear over the Apostles' heads. They are overcome with joy, faith, and strength. They are able to go out and preach, teach, and heal. They are empowered to do what Jesus told them to do: keep the commandments and remain in his love.

The Holy Spirit, powerful and dynamic, is the moving force within the Apostles who establish the early Church throughout the world. Without the Advocate and guide, there would be no Church. There would be no martyrs. There would be no Bible. There would be no gathering to reflect upon the things Jesus said and did. There would be no sacraments. There would be no eternal life.

Jesus Christ told the Apostles to remain in his word, follow his commandments, and be steadfast

in faith. They are only able to do this with help, and he sends them that help.

► **When's a time in your life when you needed help? Did you get it? Were you able to succeed because of such help?**

► **When have you been a help to others? Why did you help? How did that make you feel?**

All things in Easter Time have been building from the Resurrection and in anticipation of the arrival of the Holy Spirit. We have rejoiced in the Resurrection—Christ's victory over death—and now we are fortified in our mission to preach that Resurrection.

► **Immediately after he is filled with the Spirit, what does Peter go out and do?**

He preaches. And by his preaching, thousands are inspired to convert to the faith and are baptized and become members of this newly established, quickly growing Church.

This is the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the work that Jesus has promised. This is the Advocate that has been sent, and has come. The world will never be the same.

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 212.*

**The Holy Spirit is promised and delivered. We react to this promise by living the faith, preaching the Gospel, and testifying to the truth as we keep God's commandments out of love.**

**The Spirit is meant for us, uniquely and individually. It is a powerful force, enriching us and giving us an eternal and new life that is unending in the Lord. How do we respond to the Spirit? Do we pay attention to his promptings? Or do we ignore all that he has to say to us?**

**Are we a Pentecost people? How can we live out Pentecost and the power of the Spirit?**

## Act on the Word

*You will need poster board, crayons, markers, paper, copies of the Catechism, Bible, and YouCat.*

Have teens form groups of four or five people. Give each group a sheet of poster board. With their markers and crayons each group should draw a gigantic flame on the poster and fill it with words that describe the Holy Spirit. Have them use the *Catechism*, *YouCat*, or the Bible to help come up with good descriptive words. Once all the groups have had a few minutes to write down words, have them share with one another the words they came up with to describe the Spirit. Then, in their groups, have teens answer these questions:

- ▶ How would you describe the atmosphere or attitude in the upper room during Pentecost? What do you think the Apostles were thinking and feeling?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus sent the Spirit in the first place? Why not just stick around himself? Why is the Holy Spirit necessary?
- ▶ As a result of spreading the Gospel like the Apostles did after Pentecost, people are persecuted for their faith. Have you ever been persecuted for what you believe? When? How? What did you think and how did you respond?

After all the groups have had ample time to discuss these questions, lead them in the closing prayer found in the next column.

## Closing Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and enkindle in them the fire of your divine love.  
Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.  
Let us pray (leader should pause):  
O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful  
by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise,  
and ever to rejoice in his consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*