

May Prayer Vigil

May 15, 2018

Opening Prayer - Interfaith Immigration Coalition

God of Pentecost, send forth your Spirit. Enliven us, encourage us to share your word with power and love. May we be filled with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Make us “truly wise” and “understanding” that we might relish what is right and just. Fill us with “fortitude” that we might work tirelessly for justice. Sustain us by the “piety” of love and hope that we might be fearless advocates for those most in need.

May this feast of Pentecost enkindle in our hearts the fire of your love and energize us to continue to seek justice, in partnership with our sisters and brothers, as we participate in the mission of your Holy Spirit to “renew the face of Earth.” Amen.

1st Reading – Acts 2: 2-8, 12

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

2nd Reading – BOLDNESS AND PASSION from *Gaudete et exsultate*

129. Holiness is also *parrhesía*: it is boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave a mark in this world. To allow us to do this, Jesus himself comes and tells us once more, serenely yet firmly: “Do not be afraid” (*Mk* 6:50). “I am with you always, to the end of the world” (*Mt* 28:20). These words enable us to go forth and serve with the same courage that the Holy Spirit stirred up in the Apostles, impelling them to proclaim Jesus Christ. Boldness, enthusiasm, the freedom to speak out, apostolic fervour, all these are included in the word *parrhesía*.

130. Blessed Paul VI, in referring to obstacles to evangelization, spoke of a lack of fervour (*parrhesía*) that is “all the more serious because it comes from within”. How often we are tempted to keep close to the shore! Yet the Lord calls us to put out into the deep and let down our nets (cf. *Lk* 5:4). He bids us spend our lives in his service. Clinging to him, we are inspired to put all our charisms at the service of others.

131. Look at Jesus. His deep compassion reached out to others. It did not make him hesitant, timid or self-conscious, as often happens with us. Quite the opposite. His compassion made him go out actively to preach and to send others on a mission of healing and liberation. Let us acknowledge our weakness, but allow Jesus to lay hold of it and send us too on mission. We are weak, yet we hold a treasure that can enlarge us and make those who receive it better and happier. Boldness and apostolic courage are an essential part of mission.

Musical Reflection – Holy Now – Peter Mayer

When I was a boy, each week on Sunday, we would go to church and pay attention to the priest. He would read the holy word and consecrate the holy bread and everyone would kneel and bow. Today the only difference is everything is holy now.

Everything, everything, everything is holy now.

When I was in Sunday school we would learn about the time Moses split the sea in two Jesus made the water wine. And I remember feeling sad that miracles don't happen still But now I can't keep track Cause everything's a miracle

Everything, Everything Everything's a miracle.

Wine from water is not so small But an even better magic trick Is that anything is here at all. So the challenging thing becomes Not to look for miracles But finding where there isn't one.

When holy water was rare at best It barely wet my fingertips But now I have to hold my breath Like I'm swimming in a sea of it. It used to be a world half there Heaven's second rate hand-me-down But I walk it with a reverent air cause everything is holy now.

Read a questioning child's face And say it's not a testament That 'd be very hard to say. See another new morning come And say it's not a sacrament I tell you that it can't be done.

This morning, outside I stood and saw a little red-winged bird shining like a burning bush singing like a scripture verse. It made me want to bow my head I remember when church let out How things have changed since then Everything is holy now. It used to be a world half-there Heaven's second rate hand-me-down But I walk it with a reverent air Cause everything is holy now.

Petitions – Response: Lord, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer – From Gaudete et exsultate

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

All: Being poor of heart: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth

All: Reacting with meekness and humility: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

All: Knowing how to mourn with others: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

All: Hungering and thirsting for righteousness: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy

All: Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

All: Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God

All: Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness.

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

All: Accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness.