

## Pentecost Homily Notes

Pentecost is the birth of the missionary Church. It marks the moment when the apostles received the Holy Spirit and in the same action were equipped for mission.

Easter and Pentecost are anniversaries of the sacraments of initiation. The Easter triduum mark the institution of the Eucharist in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with the resurrection of Christ echoed in the liturgy of Baptism where the new Christian dies and is reborn in Christ. Pentecost, brings about the culmination of Jesus' promise to send his spirit and with that event comes the unmistakable mandate/command for mission.

All three readings for Pentecost express the same mandate:

The Holy Spirit equips the apostles in ways they had not previously experienced:

- They are no longer fearful and have the courage to leave the place in which they have been hiding;
- They receive the gift of speech so that the message can be understood by people of all nations and cultures;
- They will be 'guided' by the spirit; 'led' by the spirit;
- They will be protected by the Spirit "If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you".
- They will receive from the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- They will witness to Christ
- They receive the "Spirit of Truth" who will lead them to the "complete truth".

### Two types of gifts.

The apostles and all the baptised receive two types of gifts: gifts to conform them to Christ and gifts for the building up of the Church.

1. **Sanctifying grace.** These are the seven-fold gifts listed in Isaiah: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
2. **Charisms:** St Paul provides a number of lists of charisms – gifts which are given for the building up of the community of the faithful in Romans 12:6-8 (the Motivational Gifts) ; 1 Cor 12:7 (the Charismatic gifts); Eph 4:11-12 (Ministry gifts)  
[check out [Gifts and Charisms | Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana | Lafayette, Louisiana \(diolaf.org\)](#) for a summary of these charisms.]

### Charisms and Synodality

In God's providence, the Church has received all that it needs in order to flourish. Think about the implications of that statement for a while.

If the Church is not flourishing, it is because too many of the baptised are unaware of the gifts they have received and their gifts are languishing unopened and unexplored. Just who leaves their gifts to gather dust under the Christmas tree?

Synodality is an invitation to all the baptised to work together to bring about the kingdom. Charisms are central to synodality. The potential of synodality is impoverished and diminished if the laity are not sufficiently formed to understand the gifts they bring. The Church calls the laity to more than 'helping father'. It calls all the baptised to be co-responsible for the mission of the Church.

By discerning our charisms we are given clues as to the vocation God calls us to. [This article explains this in greater detail [Co-Responsibility, Personal Vocation, and Charism Discernment - Homiletic & Pastoral Review \(hprweb.com\)](#)]

The laity share in Christ's mission of prophet, priest and king. Charisms are the means by which God's grace becomes effective in the world. The awakening of the charisms and the mission of the laity will change the world in which we live.

"The mission of the laity originates within the Church but is primarily lived out in what we call society or the world. By virtue of Baptism and Confirmation we are all incorporated into the Body of Christ and share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly mission of Christ. This is the vocation that is specific to laity and is one that seeks to promote the Kingdom of God through a witness of life and service which can transform society in accordance with God's will." [The Laity's Vocation and Mission in the Church - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholicyc.ca\)](#)