

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 18, 1934

Pentecost.

In the cenacle at nine o'clock in the morning, fifty days after Easter, (Pentecost, therefore, from the Greek, pentekoste or fiftieth) "suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty wind coming: and it filled the whole house where they (the Apostles) were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues, as it were of fire: and it set upon every one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost: and they began to speak with divers tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak."

Thus the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles records the fulfillment of Our Lord's promise of the coming of the Holy Ghost. Mark the symbolism of wind and fire; it is deeply significant.

"Wind From Heaven."

In earlier days of the Church, after the sequence of the Pentecost Mass, silver trumpets sounded to symbolize the "wind from Heaven." Always the scriptural figure for the power of God -- "who walks on the wings of the winds" -- wind purifies the air, separates wheat from the chaff, fills the sails of the ship and brings it to safe port.

This "wind from Heaven" typifies, then, the personal in-coming of the Holy Ghost, with irresistible power, to cleanse, to strengthen, to guide the individual soul to Heaven.

And Fire.

Sunday at Mass the priest will wear red vestments -- symbolizing the tongues of fire and the testimony Christ's servants must bear to the Gospel, even by the shedding of their blood. In medieval times a shower of red roses from the rafters of the gothic church greeted the singing of the Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Fire, like wind, purifies, but much more thoroughly and intensely. It illumines, burns and consumes, changes what it burns into itself, -- fitting emblem, then, of the love and light of the Holy Spirit, which transforms the soul, floods it with charity, and a restless zeal to do good.

Coming of The Holy Ghost.

Ask for the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost:

- Wisdom helps the taste for things divine -- for the Mass and Holy Communion, for the duties of religion;
- Understanding aids the soul's eye to see deeply into the truths of Faith -- into the meaning of the Birth and Death of Our Lord, into His infinite love, and its consequences;
- Counsel aids in judging what to do or to avoid in difficult or exceptional cases;
- Fortitude urges on to a more heroic and enduring practice of virtue;
- Knowledge establishes a sense of values, power to see that the thrill of a minute must yield to the wishes of the Creator;
- Piety reveals God as a true Father, Christ as a brother and friend, and brings delight in His service;
- Fear of the Lord instills filial respect for God, disgust for sin.

Before Pentecost the Apostles were cowardly, indifferent, ignorant. Once filled with the Holy Ghost no labor or danger, no suffering was too great for them. Pray Sunday for a generous visitation of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Sidney Eder, '26. Ill - Dan Hennessy's mother; a friend of Maurice and Prial Curran. Two special intentions.