

Tonight at 6:45: Final
Novena Service of the term
in Sacred Heart Church.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 23, 1958

Tomorrow is a day of Partial
Abstinence -- meat at princi-
pal meal only off-campus.

Sunday Is Pentecost

Sunday recalls the birthday of the Church. It is the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues. It was really their Confirmation Day. The weak, fearful, timid Apostles now rose up fearless, and inspired. They went out boldly to proclaim their belief in Christ, in His Church, in His doctrines. And all but St. John ultimately laid down their lives for the Faith.

Even more important -- they were consumed by a zeal to lead lives of perfection, and to draw others to imitate them. In receiving the Holy Spirit, they also received His gifts of understanding, wisdom, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. On this particular Sunday, they also received the gift of tongues, and spoke eloquently thereafter. In the literal sense of the word, there was little they couldn't do, and didn't do.

Who Is The Holy Ghost?

The Third Person of the Trinity is to us the most mysterious One of All Three. There is, first of all, the name itself -- signifying an incorporeal and intelligent Being. The word "ghost" comes from the Saxon, *gast*, signifying "breath." The Second Person is a Son; hence, He is born. The Third Person is a Spirit; hence, He is breathed forth. On Easter evening, Our Lord came to His disciples and as He breathed on them, He said: "Receive the Holy Ghost..."

It is remarkable that the Holy Ghost in Scripture is so emphatically called the Spirit of Truth, i.e., the Spirit that imparts the truth to the minds of men. Again, Our Lord said: "The Paraclete, the Holy Ghost, will teach you all things. When the Spirit of Truth is come, He will teach you all truth."

Therefore, when truth concerning God is imparted to men, it is right that this should be called the coming of the Holy Ghost, since it is the Truth, breathed out in love and grace, which is given to men.

Because of the mysteriousness of the Third Person to our understanding, God has expressed by many symbols and emblems the character of the Holy Ghost as Person -- a hovering dove, a flame overhead, a rushing wind, a lightsome cloud, a thing received, a gift, a dweller in a temple, another Paraclete, One that prays within us, a fire in which one is merged or baptized.

To the Holy Ghost is ascribed the work of sanctification. He is also called the Comforter because, previous to His coming, Christ had been the refuge of the Apostles in all their difficulties. His ascension ended this lovable and attractive association. But all this was to be replaced by the coming of the Holy Ghost -- by the direct work of divine grace in their hearts, the supremely comforting Gift to every human heart.

Our Lord laid special stress on the work of this new Paraclete -- that of teaching and giving truth, because in the minds of the Apostles the absence of a Teacher was felt keenly; they realized how little as yet they understood and remembered. The new Teacher would recall all things already taught, and would add new truths which they would now be able to understand.

Look at the Apostles before the coming of the Holy Ghost on Pentecost -- they were very much like ourselves. But their transformation was amazing! Save for charismatic gifts, the same transformation can happen to us through the gifts of the same Sanctifier.