

June 1, 2014

Pentecost Blessings,

As we celebrate Pentecost next Sunday we hear the amazing story of Pentecost as revealed in the Acts of the Apostles. A few verses later in the same chapter we are given a glimpse into the community life of those first Christians who devoted themselves to the teachings of Jesus as revealed by the apostles. They saw themselves as a family, sharing all things in common, eating together, praying together, caring for one another in very practical ways by selling property and possessions in order to attend to everyone's needs. This is what families do. The Spirit was alive in them. The healing, forgiving, merciful Divine presence so evident in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was alive in and through the community, expressing that same redemptive pattern into the world around them through individuals and through their common life. This is the Scriptural basis for our celebration of Pentecost and anchors our belief that the Body of Christ, (the church) animated by the Spirit, is ceaselessly led and inspired to embrace the whole world in its inclusive arms of wonder and love.

The Spirit is alive today in opening our eyes to the immensity and grandeur of a universe beyond our imaginings. It is alive in opening our ears to the cries of the marginalized and oppressed as it readies our hearts for a global sense of "home" we have never before known. It is alive in revealing the devastation of earth, its creatures and habitats, as it lays the spiritual groundwork for a transformation of consciousness that perceives all of life as next-of-kin. And it is alive in all expressions of empathy, generosity, compassion, mercy, joy, kindness, caring—in a word, all expressions of love.

The Spirit is present and active everywhere. It is so pervasive that we can easily miss its presence and activity if we aren't paying attention. Like the air we breathe, it filters through our bodies and minds and moves through our circle of friends and family, our neighborhoods and communities, so fluidly that it can be almost imperceptible. But it's always there, vivifying, healing, knitting together the loose strands, rebuilding the network, offering promise, hope and a reason to re-invest our energies, a reason to care.

Readings for Liturgies can be found on the USCCB website at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>.

Mass Schedule This Month

Mass in **Eugene** will be Pentecost Sunday, **June 8, at First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd, at 4:00pm**. A potluck to celebrate Pentecost will follow Mass. Please bring entrees, salads, veggies and desserts. If you are interested in being part of the choir as a musician or singer, please come at 3:00 for rehearsal.

Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **June 14, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way at 5:00pm**. Potluck follows. We will celebrate with entrees, salads, veggies and desserts. Choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

Mass in **Battle Ground** will be Sunday **June 1 and June 22 at 10:30am**. Bring non-perishable food and hygiene items for St. Vincent de Paul as well as healthy food to share after Mass.

Upcoming Events:

Portland Pride – June 14 and 15

Volunteers are needed to staff the Sophia Christi booth at the Portland Pride Festival two weeks from now. We will be signing up after Mass next weekend or you can call or email Joy L. A map of the Festival grounds can be located at www.pridenw.org/downloads/sitemapfinal.pdf. Our booth location is G-4.

The Pride Parade begins at 11:00am on Sunday. This year we will be marching with Catholic Oregonians for Marriage. Check-in begins at 8:00am and continues until 10:30. We will have a vehicle in the parade this year for those unable to walk the entire route, so please contact Joy L. if you wish to ride. Also, please let her know if you would like to help decorate the truck! Fun, yes!!!

Just a reminder-- Portland Mass will be at 5:00 on Saturday, the 14th, as usual.

Summer Events: Mark Your Calendars!

❖ **Parish Council Meeting – July 20, 2-4pm, Location in Salem TBA**

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

❖ **Eugene Pride Festival – August 9, 12 noon to 7pm**

Staffing will be needed at our booth throughout the day, so please consider being involved!

❖ **Eugene Celebration – August 22-24**

This is another great outreach venue for us! Several people have joined the community after finding our booth and talking with us there. Please consider being part of the Sophia Christi outreach team at this event.

❖ **Community Picnic – September 6, 1-4pm, at Carol's in Stayton, OR**

Our third annual community picnic will take place at the beginning of September. Plan to join in on the fun again this year by putting this on your calendar NOW! The Parish Council will meet beforehand from 11:00 to 1:00. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Pastoral Update:

Website

There has been a slight delay in opening the “member portal” due to a combination of factors—some questions needing answers, some technical issues, some permissions outstanding—but most of the work has already been done. We are hoping to launch this page along with the secure community Facebook page early this summer.

Please keep in mind that the current homily, announcements, reflections and updates are posted on our website each and every month. I encourage you to check it out and send your own comments to the ‘News and Events’ page for posting. Please bookmark this page www.sophiachristi.org for easy access.

A pastoral reminder--if you or someone you know has a pastoral need that isn't being met, please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have my email address in this mailing,

and my office phone number is 503-286-3584. Feel free to use either one. You can contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, sacraments of reconciliation or anointing, home Masses, weddings, funerals, memorial services or other pastoral care needs.

Food for the St. Andrew Episcopal Food Pantry

Please remember to bring food and personal hygiene donations for the Food Pantry when you come to Mass next weekend. **Look for the basket at the entrance to the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please be as generous as possible.**

The Holy Spirit, so real yet so mysterious, takes hold of the Church's hand and urges us toward a celebration of Trinity the Sunday after Pentecost. Within the doctrine of Trinity, Christianity has a template for community, an icon of absolute equality in the very nature of God. This communion of Love that God IS includes us—in and through Jesus, our brother—and it includes all of creation—sustained and enlivened by the ongoing presence of the Spirit of God. So the oneness of the family of creation is beautifully conveyed in the theological concept of Trinity.

In her book *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God*, Elizabeth Johnson describes her own image of Trinity: “A number of biblical texts depict the work of God using the female imagery of Wisdom-Sophia who creates, redeems and makes holy the world. Drawing on these texts I have suggested the language of Spirit Sophia, Jesus Sophia, and Mother Sophia, the one God who is Holy Wisdom herself: unoriginate source of all, Wisdom incarnate amid the suffering of history, and mobile, gracious presence throughout the world.”

Later she cites Catherine LaCugna's classic work, *God For Us* quoting LaCugna's opening sentence: “The doctrine of the Trinity is ultimately a practical doctrine with radical consequences for Christian life.” Johnson goes on to say: “The revitalized idea of the Trinity makes clear that, far from existing as a monarch ruling from isolated splendor and lording it over others, the living God is an overflowing communion of self-giving love. The practical importance of this notion lies in the way it exposes the perversion of patriarchy, racism, and other sinful patterns. Because such breaks in community totally oppose God's very own way of relating, people of faith have compelling reason to behave otherwise.”

The feasts of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday give us much to think about in the weeks ahead. May the Holy Spirit enliven our trinitarian, three-in-one community, and lead us to a deeper appreciation of our place and our calling in the family of God.

The blessings of Pentecost and Trinitarian community to all of you,

Toni