



PENTECOST SUNDAY

IN ONE SPIRIT WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED
INTO ONE BODY.

—1 Corinthians 12:13a

May 19, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

<p>THE DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</p>	<p>John's Gospel tells us that when Jesus "breathed" on the disciples, the Holy Spirit came into them, empowering them to forgive sins and to gather all people into union with one another.</p> <p>The book of Genesis had explained the divisions among nations with the story of the Tower of Babel. In rebellious pride, human beings had struggled to become equal to God. The result was chaos, strife, the inability even to speak the same language among themselves. Today's reading from Acts tells how the Spirit has just the opposite effect. Strangers from many nations hear and understand one another, each in his or her own tongue.</p> <p>This message of unity in the Spirit is repeated in the reading from Corinthians. There are many gifts, many ways to serve. One way is not "higher," nor one person "better" than another. There is but one Spirit, who accomplishes all the different works we do, acting through us.</p>
<p>TRADITIONS</p>	<p>Today we are at the fiftieth day of the Easter celebration: seven weeks of seven days, a week of weeks, now culminating in a festival fiftieth day. While the liturgical color of the Easter season is gold, on this last day we have red. For the first thousand years of the church, there were no firm rules for using colors. Only wealthy churches could afford a full array of colors, and most places used the best vestments, no matter the color, for the greatest feasts. The Church spelled out an exact plan for color, including red for Pentecost, only in 1570, but local differences held on until the 1800s.</p> <p>Color experts tell us that red is a hot color, best used for fast-paced, upbeat, active experiences. It is hard to be neutral before red, as any matador will tell you. It invites commitment, draws you in. It is a stimulating color, engaging the eye, stirring hunger. It is the most fitting color for this day when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit into our lives, a dynamic presence overturning neutrality in favor of passion and commitment.</p>
<p>REMINDER</p>	<p>All liturgical ministers are asked to send their non-availability dates for June, July and August to csaiza@smatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 by this Monday, May 20th.</p>
<p>RCIA</p>	<p>Are you interested in being baptized into the Catholic faith or completing the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation? If so, please call Sister Sharon Francis at 562.439.0931 x 5. Sister will go through the discernment process with you and answer any questions you might have before beginning your faith journey.</p>
<p>SUPPORT OUR LONG BEACH AIDS WALK TEAM</p>	<p>Did you know that the annual AIDS Walk Long Beach has raised \$2.1 million dollars since 1989 benefiting over 37 agencies? AIDS Walk Long Beach has helped fund HIV testing, medical services, medication, HIV prevention education programs, homeless HIV outreach, and emergency services. Next weekend, Comunidad members will be accepting donations in support of the St. Matthew Long Beach AIDS Walk team who will join the Walk on June 2nd to help provide services for people in Long Beach who are living with HIV/AIDS.</p>
<p>REFLECTIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31 Second Reading: Romans 5:1-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gospel: John 16:12-15</p> <p>"When the Spirit of Truth comes, this One will guide you along the way of truth." Do I take time during each day to ask the Holy Spirit to guide my words and actions? Do I then listen to the Holy Spirit?</p>