

Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning May 20, 2018

A quote to ponder this week

“Lord, send forth you Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” Psalm 104:30

May 20th, 2018 is Pentecost Sunday > Practice of Hope > “Bienvenidos! Welcome!” That’s a greeting from the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, mostly Anglo women in middle age and later. They use their former school building in Beaverton, Oregon, as a place to teach English to immigrants. The sisters say that they have benefitted from the multicultural encounter. <>Attend Mass in another language. Enjoy Catholicism’s paradox – many lands, but one faith, centred on “the mighty acts of God.” ...<>Learn to pray the Our Father in another language.” AT HOME with the WORD 2018, page 91 **Wear some red to Church to celebrate the Church’s birthday!**

Solemnity of Pentecost – Last Sunday of Easter Time “Easter Time comes to its glorious conclusion with the great Solemnity of Pentecost. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest feast, celebrated fifty days after Passover (hence the name “Pentecost,” which means *fiftieth* in Greek). At Pentecost, bread made from the newly-harvested grain would be offered to God. The feast also commemorated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. It was while Jews from every nation were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate this feast that the Spirit came upon the disciples gathered in prayer, like wind and fire. They must have remembered the Exodus account of the giving of the law to Moses, when there was a sound like a trumpet blast, and fire and smoke (see Exodus 19:16-19). But the contrasts between the giving of the Law and the giving of the Spirit are even more striking than the similarities. At Sinai, Moses alone went up to receive the immutable word of God carved on tablets of stone. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit came down to the people and rested on each of them in a play of wind and fire. The Spirit cannot be contained, or written down. The special sequence, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, “Come, Holy Spirit,” that is prayed during Mass today addresses the Spirit with many different titles and images – the Spirit is “Father of the poor,” “comforter,” “sweet refreshment,” “solace,” and “light.” The multitude of images suggests the free play of the Spirit. In the Middle Ages, this free play of the Spirit was expressed in many creative ways in the great cathedrals. In some parts of France, wind instruments would fill the church with sound, while roses and other flowers would be dropped on the assembly. In other places, live doves would be set free to fly through the church. These customs spoke to the people about the nature of the Holy Spirit: gentle, yet impossible to contain or control. Pentecost is sometimes called “the birthday of the Church,” because it was only after they were filled with the gifts of the Spirit that the Apostles set forth on the mission Christ gave them, to preach the Good News, and to baptize all nations. The Spirit transformed them, and transforms us.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, page 20

Scripture Insights – “Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew word for Spirit is *ruah*, meaning “breath or wind.” Speak the word *ruah* aloud and you will hear its meaning! In the opening verse of the Bible the writer uses this image of wind to capture God’s creating power: “When God created the heavens and the earth...a mighty wind was sweeping over the waters” (Genesis 1:1). When God created the human being, the writer used the image of God “blowing into his nostrils the breath of life” (Genesis 2:7). In a symbolic way, God shows us that life itself is a gift that comes from God. Not only did God bring us into existence, but God also wanted humanity to remain close to God. Humans had more independent schemes – captured in the story of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9). The different languages of humanity became a sign that without God we were unable to communicate perfectly with one another, and strife emerged. The First Reading, from Acts of the Apostles, describes a noise like a *strong driving wind* that points to the presence of the Spirit, *ruah*. That Spirit works through the preaching of the Apostles, enabling everyone to understand the message despite the different languages. Through the Spirit, the human family is recreated into a new people of God that can communicate and understand each other. The Tower of Babel is reversed! Today’s Gospel is a passage prior to Jesus’ Death and Resurrection when Jesus promises to send the Spirit on the disciples to continue God’s communication with them into the future. “The Spirit of truth” will testify to Jesus and will guide us into a deeper understanding of Jesus’ teaching. What role do you find the Spirit playing in today’s Responsorial Psalm?

- With the caveat that for Paul, “flesh” and “spirit” cannot be equated with body and soul, but rather with the old self (before Baptism) and the new life in Christ, what insights do you find in the Second Reading that could be helpful to your spiritual life at this time?
- How are you empowered by the Spirit today?” AT HOME with the WORD 2018, page 91

May 22nd is **Victoria Day**. “This Canadian national holiday is a remembrance of the birthday of the queen who ruled the longest of any British monarch. Queen Victoria’s reign lasted 60 years. Her subjects in Canada and other countries became so used to celebrating her birthday that they continued the custom even after she died. They began to use this day to tell about the deeds of British heroes. Victoria’s actual date of birth is May 24, 1819. In 1952, the celebration was moved to the Monday on or before that date. In Canada, the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II is also observed on Victoria Day, although her actual birth date is April 21st.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, page 69.

May 24th is the memorial of **Blessed Louis-Zéphirin Moreau**, Bishop. “Blessed Louis-Zéphirin Moreau (1824-1901) was from a large Canadian farming family. A delicate child too frail for farm work, he was fortunately intelligent enough to be sent to be educated. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1846; unfortunately, his theological training was shortened by his ill health. In 1852, he became advisor to the bishops of Saint-Hyacinthe and administered the diocese when the bishops were absent. He earned a reputation for hard work and administrative efficiency and skill. While serving as parish priest, he became concerned about the financial condition of workers, and he established the Union Saint-Joseph, a society that provided protection from unexpected events such as unemployment, accidents, and premature death. In 1876, Louis was consecrated fourth bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe and administered the diocese for twenty-five years. During this time, he built a cathedral, founded two orders of sisters, and worked to support the priests of the dioceses spiritually and intellectually by instituting conferences and retreats for them. Bishop Moreau’s health began to fail around 1896, and he died in 1901. He was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1987.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, page 77. *Blessed Louis-Zéphirin inspire us to work to eliminate the effects of poverty in the lives of those around us. Say a prayer for the people in Quebec who are experiencing flooding.*

May 25th is the memorial of **St. Bede the Venerable**, Priest and Doctor of the Church. “The Venerable Bede (673-735), an English Benedictine monk, wrote *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which was his most famous work. Unlike historians who came before him, he did careful research and cited his references.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, page 77. *St. Bede guide us to do careful research and to cite our references. Make St. Bede the patron of your yearend projects or ISUs.*

May 26th is the memorial of **St. Philip Neri**, Priest. St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) was an Italian priest and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory or Oratorians. Philip was known for his joyful spirit, believing that it is more Christian to be cheerful than melancholy. A well-known figure in the Eternal City, during his lifetime he was known as the “apostle of Rome.” Philip was ahead of his time in urging more frequent reception of Holy Communion, and he introduced the Forty Hours’ devotion with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. He was apt to go into ecstasy when celebrating Eucharist, so he had to try to distract himself so he could finish the rites.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, page 78. *St. Philip remind us often that we can accomplish more and live more joyfully when we use our sense of humour. Don’t take yourself too seriously today.*

Faith Development – Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation **Gaudete et Exsultate**

“CHAPTER ONE – THE CALL TO HOLINESS – THE SAINTS WHO ENCOURAGE AND ACCOMPANY US

3. The Letter to the Hebrews presents a number of testimonies that encourage us to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (12:1). It speaks of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Gideon and others (cf. 11:1-12:3). Above all, it invites us to realize that “a great cloud of witnesses” (12:1) impels us to advance constantly towards the goal. These witnesses may include our own mothers, grandmothers or other loved ones (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). Their lives may not always have been perfect, yet even amid their faults and failings they kept moving forward and proved pleasing to the Lord.

4. The saints now in God’s presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us. The Book of Revelation attests to this when it speaks of the intercession of the martyrs: “I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne; they cried out with a loud voice, ‘O sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge?’” (6:9-10). Each of us can say: “Surrounded, led and guided by the friends of God... I do not have to carry alone what, in truth, I could never carry alone. All the saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me”.^[1]

5. The processes of beatification and canonization recognize the signs of heroic virtue, the sacrifice of one’s life in martyrdom, and certain cases where a life is constantly offered for others, even until death. This shows an exemplary imitation of Christ, one worthy of the admiration of the faithful.^[2] We can think, for example, of Blessed Maria Gabriella Sagheddu, who offered her life for the unity of Christians.” papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.pdf

Catholic Character Education and the Virtues + Patience, Community and Compassion

Compassion is a virtue that must be taught in order that the community reaches out to those who are at risk and vulnerable. Here is a prayer for this week that connect the virtue of the month to Pentecost: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created: and you will renew the face of the earth.

Living Our Mission Statement

We are a Catholic Learning community – Everyone is welcome to learn and explore and grow in our community!

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – For the next few weeks, I am going to post activities for self-care for the Big List:

1. Go to your local playground and join in a game being played
2. Get out of your house, even if you just sit outside
3. Plan a trip to somewhere you've never been before
4. Get a massage
5. Eat chocolate
6. Read your favourite book, magazine or newspaper

Catholicity – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan

Three cheers for how each learning community celebrated CEW 2018 and the Walk for Justice.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2012 Calls to Action

“In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

Reconciliation

National Council for Reconciliation

55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:

- ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.

"So for every dollar a province would spend, the First Nations schools were only getting 70 cents."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/first-nations-education-funding-gap-1.3487822>

Twenty-first Century Learning

https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=YD6Y7LNX&utm_source > Slow Down – Nichole Nordeman’s Tearjerking Song from Moms to their Kids – 3.57 min

https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=YD6WP7NX&utm_source > Hey Mama – sung by the Ball Brothers Sing Tribute To All Mothers 3.37 min

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/kairos-top-12-wishes-for-2018>

> If Grade 7 and 8 classes or high school classes who have had the Blanket Exercise want an extension activity, they may find one here.

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources> > Resources for teaching difficult topics in history

www.CARFLEO.com > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

<http://www.wccm-canada.ca/> > This is the Canadian site for the World Community of Christian Meditation > Ten Helpful Hints for the Teacher > http://media.wix.com/ugd/1e8072_89404bfd48bd4bd6a98dd6b862be2c0d.pdf

115 Sainly FUN Facts ~ Smiles and Surprises for Kids of All Ages by Bernadette McCarver Snyder

“Zeno > Zeno had an unusual name AND an unusual nickname. He is sometimes called the “saint who smiles”! Hopefully, A LOT of saints smiled, but Zeno got this name because there is a statue of him in the basilica in Verona, Italy – and it is a statue of a happy, smiling bishop. This statue is notable because so MANY sculptors made statues of saints looking very serious and somber – which is probably not the way they looked at all! Maybe Zeno’s sculptor had heard stories of how this bishop could smile even when he had serious problems. Zeno DID have problems because during his time as bishop, he had to defend the Church against many heresies and pagan superstitions. Zeno was a good pastor to his people, and he taught them they should always be kind and give hospitality and charity to all. If someone made a statue of YOU, would they picture you as smiling – or as frowning, pouting or grouching? Look at yourself in a mirror today and think about the way your face USUALLY looks. Does it usually look happy? Does it usually look the way you WANT people to think of you? If it doesn’t, maybe you better put a smile onto that face!” pages 138

FUN BIBLE Trivia for Kids by Barbour Publishing

1. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language. T or F
2. The Old Testament was written before Christ was born. T or F
3. The first five books of the Bible are called the:
A. **Pentateuch** B. Pentagon C. Pimiento D. Fantastic Five
4. Who is given authorship of the first five books of the Bible?
A. David B. Mark C. **Moses** D. Abraham
5. You can find the Ten Commandments in the following Old Testament book(s):
A. Exodus B. Deuteronomy C. **Exodus and Deuteronomy** D. Genesis

BONUS

6. Did you know the Jewish people call the first five books in the Bible the Torah? These books contain the Law given to Moses by God. Today many Jewish people follow dietary laws and other observances set forth in the Torah. Jesus said Christians do not need to follow these laws (John 1:17). However, we worship the same God and Christians are to follow the Ten Commandments.

FUN BIBLE Trivia for Kids by Barbour Publishing

1. The first event in the Old Testament is the:
A. creation of the universe C. great flood
B. creation of the first gospel singing group D. birth of Jesus
2. In the Old Testament, the nations of Israel was divided into how many tribes?
A. 3 B. 7 C. 10 D. 12
3. The Law in the Pentateuch is often called the Mosaic Law because:
A. God gave the laws to Moses C. Moses broke the stone tablets and made up his own law
B. all the laws are different, creating a "mosaic" of instructions D. Moses was a police officer
4. The Book of Ruth:
A. is named for the candy bar, Baby Ruth C. is the story of an evil woman named Ruth
B. records great military victories D. illustrates two kinds of love
5. Queen Esther is honoured by Jewish people each year. T or F

Taking Jesus to the Movies ...A blog by Pat Carter

Coco ~ This Disney Pixar movie teaches the viewers the cultural tradition of the Latin peoples around All Soul's day. Miguel is a young boy who is magically transported to the Land of the Dead to learn who his real father is and how important music is in his family past. I watched this movie with a little girl who has seen the movie about twenty times. She was not fearful of the images of those in the Land of the Dead. I think this movie can help many children to understand more about death. I give this movie

♥♥♥.5/5♥

A Blog for Eclectic Readers - by Pat Carter csj

No book this week - I give this book 😊😊😊😊/5😊

Trivia for Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies.

“No socks day is May 8th.” <http://www.funtrivia.com/submitquiz.cfm>