

## From Your Pastor

### Happy Pentecost! ~ The Holy Spirit, Forgiveness, and Sin

The Easter Season began at the great Easter Vigil when the darkness of night was pierced with light from the Easter fire. From that fire our Paschal Candle, a visible reminder of the presence of Christ among us, was lighted and given a special place in the church. This great season of Easter – in which the Church was born – celebrates the principal gifts of the saving passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, namely the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with God and with one another. The Easter Season concludes today with the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or “the fiftieth (day).” Beautifully, just as the Easter Season began in forgiveness, it ends in forgiveness. As was proclaimed in the Gospel today, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins are retained are retained” (Jn 20:23).

We will never have a right attitude toward forgiveness if we are not honest about sin. I offer two brief thoughts about sin. The first is this. The fact that mercy and forgiveness are always available from God – and should always be available from our neighbor – does not give us a license to sin. What do I mean by this? Sometimes in life we develop the attitude that it is easier to ask for forgiveness than it is to obtain permission. This happens, for example, when my spouse or friend rightly has high expectations of my behavior, but is unfailing in his or her love even when I do something wrong. Because he or she expects me to live virtuously, I know I cannot ask permission to do something wrong. Yet, knowing that I will be forgiven, I give myself the permission or the license to do wrong.

This license to sin, which I choose because of the goodness and the love of my spouse or my friend, is a very serious violation of the love that I receive from him or her. In the end, it is a violation of our friendship and will lead to the destruction of our relationship. Why? Because when I sin in this way, I do not truly receive the love of my spouse or friend as the pure gift that it is, but rather I use it as part of the motivation for my sin. I rely on the love and the forgiveness that I know I will receive in order to give myself the license to live falsely in my relationship with another and to commit sin. In

the end, what I want from the other is not his or her love, but the license I need to live in my own egoism. When I live like this, there is really no relationship of love at all. I forfeit love for my own selfish wants.

The second thought about sin is this. When I sin against God and my neighbor, I always sin against myself. God is love. He created me in love and in his image. Every time that I sin, I choose to live outside of God’s love and, therefore, I become less of his image. Sin really is a self-destructive act, because it is always an act that makes me less of who I am. When I choose to persist in sin, I am really choosing the death of my relationships with God and with my neighbor. I am choosing to live without love and will find myself completely alone. Sadly, this was the experience of Judas. In the end, he found himself completely separated from the Lord, because he chose not to accept the Lord’s love.

The person who honestly recognizes his sin and admits it is the person who knows what it means to have a broken heart. His heart is truly sorry and filled with repentance for what he has done. He runs to the Lord for forgiveness with a contrite heart, because he cannot live with what he has done to God or to his neighbor. Neither can he live with what he has done to himself. This was the experience of Saint Peter. Once he realized what he had done in denying the Lord, he knew he needed forgiveness. With a contrite heart he asked for it and he received it.

Very often we forget the deadly effect that sin has upon us. God does not. From the moment God created us, he has reached out to us – again and again – in complete love, to rescue us from the sin which we have embraced. In the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, his beloved Son, God showed the depth of his love for us: he reconciled us completely and for all time. Let us embrace God’s love anew as our own. Let us ask the Lord to fill us with contrite hearts that yearn to live again in God’s image. By his grace, let us be truly reconciled with him, and truly committed to forgiving one another and to reconciling with one another. This is the life of the Holy Spirit that Jesus breathed into his disciples. May the Holy Spirit renew that life within us.



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*

## *PENTECOST SUNDAY*

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**Prayers Are Requested** for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; for the prayers listed in our book of intentions; and for the repose of the souls of Carmen Cence and deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

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**First Friday and the Eucharist:** In order to strengthen the Eucharistic character of First Friday, the First Friday schedule is as follows: Mass at 7:00 and 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM (Latin). Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 9:30 AM until 12:00 Noon, for an increase of Vocations to the priesthood and Consecrated Life. Exposition will conclude with Benediction at 12:00 Noon. Sign-up sheets for adoration are available at the doors of the church.

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**Installation of New Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion** – This weekend on the Solemnity of Pentecost, new Lectors will be installed at the Masses in which they serve. New Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion will be installed during the Masses on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 13-14. These ministers are appointed for a three year term and, with their installation, have the right to wear the medallion indicating their particular service to the Church.

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**St. Columbkille Volunteer Fair** – The Volunteer Fair takes place this weekend following all of the Masses. Please look over the opportunities available for service in the parish, and if you are able please volunteer in some capacity. We would love to have you join us in the active work of the parish. We are grateful for the consideration you are giving to serving in the parish.

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**The 5:00 PM Mass Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**, will be celebrated as a Festive Mass in honor of St. Columbkille, our Patron Saint. **Please plan on joining us.** Members of the Irish community of Brighton and other neighborhoods of Boston will be with us to provide some Irish music and flavor during the Mass. Father John McCarthy of the Irish Pastoral Center in Quincy will be present as celebrant and homilist. A light reception will follow the Mass in the Rectory to which all present are invited.

**2009 Catholic Appeal Reminder** *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church. Congratulations!* Thank you to all who contributed - we couldn't have done it without each of you! Now that we've reached our goal, our parish will receive 25 percent of all pledges made from this point forward. It is not too late to still make a pledge. Every gift matters. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church. For more information please visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com) or call 617-779-3700. Thank you!

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**The Second Collection This Weekend** is for **the Seminaries of the Archdiocese.**

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**Did You Know? Who Are the Abusers?** Estimates are that approximately 60% of abusers are men, 15 to 20% are women, and 20 to 40% are men and women acting together. So while men are indeed the majority of sexual abusers, it is dangerous to underestimate the risk that female sexual abusers also pose to children. Among educators, 57.2% of abusers are male, and 42.4% of abusers are female. Source: Charol Shakeshaft, Hofstra University, from speech given at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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**Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes** as you leave Mass today. Last week's collection was \$126.52. Thank you! Next meeting Tuesday June 9 at 7:00pm.

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**The Catholic Daughters** will be holding their annual Mass for deceased members on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The meeting will follow the Mass. The Mystery Ride will be on Wednesday, June 10. The bus will leave St. Columbkille at 4:30 pm. The cost is \$40.00. Please make reservations with Fran Gately, 617-782-0819.

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**Fr. Anda will lead a trip** to Oberammergau, Germany in May 2010. Prior to seeing the Passion Play the tour will visit Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck and Munich. Space is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance for the Passion Play. If interested, please contact Fr. Anda at [aulgus2tine@yahoo.com](mailto:aulgus2tine@yahoo.com) or at the rectory.

*MAY 31, 2009*

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From the Treatise "Against the Heresies"  
by St Irenaeus (d. c 202)

*The Sending of the Holy Spirit*

When the Lord told his disciples to go and teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, he conferred on them the power of giving men new life in God.

He had promised through the prophets that in these last days he would pour out his Spirit on his servants and handmaids, and that they would prophesy. So when the Son of God became the Son of Man, the Spirit also descended upon him, becoming accustomed in this way to dwelling with the human race, to living in men and to inhabiting God's creation. The Spirit accomplished the Father's will in men who had grown old in sin, and gave them new life in Christ.

Luke says that the Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost, after the Lord's ascension, with power to open the gates of life to all nations and to make known to them the new covenant. So it was that men of every language joined in singing one song of praise to God, and scattered tribes, restored to unity by the Spirit, were offered to the Father as the first-fruits of all the nations.

This was why the Lord had promised to send the Advocate: he was to prepare us as an offering to God. Like dry flour, which cannot become one lump of dough, one loaf of bread, without moisture, we who are many could not become one in Christ Jesus without the water that comes down from heaven. And like parched ground, which yields no harvest unless it receives moisture, we who were once like a waterless tree could never have lived and borne fruit without this abundant rainfall from above. Through the baptism that liberates us from change and decay we have become one in body; through the Spirit we have become one in soul.

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of God came down upon the Lord, and the Lord in turn gave this Spirit to his Church, sending the Advocate from heaven into all the world into which, according to his own words, the devil too had been cast down like lightning.

If we are not to be scorched and made unfruitful, we need the dew of God. Since we have our accuser, we

**MAY 31, 2009**

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need an advocate as well. And so the Lord in his pity for man, who had fallen into the hands of brigands, having himself bound up his wounds and left for his care two coins bearing the royal image, entrusted him to the Holy Spirit. Now, through the Spirit, the image and inscription of the Father and the Son have been given to us, and it is our duty to use the coin committed to our charge and make it yield a rich profit for the Lord.

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***Prayer for Marriage***

Heavenly Father,  
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage  
that reflects the love of Christ for the Church,  
where the self-giving love of husband and wife  
unites them more perfectly  
and cooperates in your plan  
for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women  
in their vocation of marriage,  
especially in difficult times  
when they join their sufferings to the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society  
as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love  
and on your providential care for us. Amen.

*Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.*

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.  
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap  
Archbishop of Boston  
May 15, 2007

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**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Weekend of May 30/31** Volunteer Fair

**Sunday, May 31 9:30 am** Family Mass

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday**

(Sat.) 4:00 pm Agustín Buñuel, Mem.

7:30 am Benedetto & Maria Soave, Mem.

9:30 am Tommaso & Antonette Randolfi, Mem.

***MAY 31, 2009***

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11:15 am *Missa pro Populo*  
12:45 pm Pedro Pablo Galvez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann.  
5:00 pm Rosina Pacitto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.

**Mon.** 7:00 am Johanna Cecilia Murphy, Mem.  
**Tue.** 7:00 am Rev. Edward J. Coyne, CSSR, 29<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
**Wed.** 7:00 am Patrick & Helen Freeley, Mem.  
**Thu.** 7:00 am Domenico, Lucia & Maria Cirigliano, Me  
**Fri.** 7:00 am Carmen Diaz, 4<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
**Sat.** 7:00 am Bernadette Canney, Mem.

**Sunday, June 7 – Trinity Sunday**

**(Sat.)** 4:00 pm Anthony & Nettie Gately, Mem.  
7:30 am John McCarthy, 1<sup>st</sup> Ann.  
9:30 am John Walsh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.  
11:15 am William Walker, Mem.  
12:45 pm *Missa pro Populo*  
5:00 pm Anna & Thomas Walsh &  
Frank Johnson, Mem.

**END OF BULLETIN**  
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CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

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**Comments:**

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