

Dear Parishioners of St. Landry;

May 26, 2020

This weekend (May 30-31) we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. It is a sacred time to remember the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us by Jesus and the Father to become the New Jerusalem. We are the church, the People of God, formed in the likeness of Jesus the perfect servant of God. Jesus, both God and human, shares His very breath with us so that we might witness to the love of His Father.

It is the Holy Spirit that sends us forth, that inspires us and nurtures us. It is the Holy Spirit that graces us to prayer and urges us to holiness. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us those gifts which empower and sustain us throughout our journey.

This Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thirty-three of our young brothers and sisters will be confirmed by Bishop Deshotel. We are so happy for them, and as a community of the faithful we pray for their happiness and joy as children of a wondrous and merciful God. We pray as fellow members of the church that all of us will grow in faith and understanding, especially our newest adults in the life of the church.

The Feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. It is that powerful time in the church's history when the ones who followed Jesus of Nazareth received His Spirit and moved out into the world. It was at this time when those early followers dedicated themselves to the spread of the gospel but also to live lives reflective of what it meant to love God and one another. This newly born people of God stood in the midst of terrible persecution, torture, discrimination, and death and declared themselves fearless and faithful. The blood of martyrs flowed in the streets of Rome, Antioch, and Jerusalem. Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers lost their lives because they bore witness to the truth. They stood before a violent world and declared their faith in Jesus of Nazareth and their solidarity with the communion of saints.

It was the Holy Spirit that gave them wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence. The Spirit filled them with wonder and awe in His presence. These gifts were given to the early church, to all of us and now to those who will be reborn in the Spirit.

Many thanks to the teachers, sponsors and family members of those to be confirmed. We appreciate your dedication to serve these young people with your mentoring and support. Your faith has held them and led them through this part of their journey.

May God continue to bless us all in our common journey of faith, our journey to the New Jerusalem.

Msgr. Russell J. Harrington