



Things to Ponder

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Pentecost Sunday

Dear Parish Family:

Happy Birthday!

Today we conclude the Easter Season with the celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. This fire of God's love transformed a frightened group of followers of Jesus into a strong and vibrant community of faith. The gospel for this solemn feast is the commission of the Church to be a source of reconciliation for the world. As Jesus breathed upon the apostles, he did empower them to forgive sins sacramentally; but he also entrusted to all the baptized the responsibility of bringing the message of God's mercy to an often alienated world.

People sometimes confuse the fact that we hold certain truths to be “non-negotiable” with a lack of compassion. Parents and teachers do no favor to their children or students when they gloss over the truth; yet, as the Holy Father, Pope Francis, continues to emphasize, it is essential that we walk with and dialogue with all, especially with those whose views and attitudes are diametrically opposed to those things we hold dear.

Several months ago, I gave a lecture to a small group on the “Fathers of the Church.” As I researched the early centuries of Church history, I was reminded of the great controversies that led to the formation of our Creed. The very fact that we are still intact and growing is testimony to the awesome power of the Spirit and the ministry of reconciliation!

Yours in the Spirit,

Rev. William Foley

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