

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Fire in the upper room... Acts 2:1-11
In the Spirit we are one. 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13
'Receive the Holy Spirit.' John 20:19-23

Next week: Trinity Sunday.

Exodus 34:4-6,8-9;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13;
John 3:16-18.

In a nutshell

In the wake of the resurrection the disciples experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowering them to speak and act boldly in the name of the risen Lord. The peace of Christ is not a 'private' gift but sends us forth as apostles. Forgiveness of sins is intimately linked to the mission of the Church.



Margy's Mission

Pentecost: an intense experience of the Holy Spirit; a movement from fear to boldness, from being 'lost' to resolute mission. These words form an apt description of events in the life of a Margy, a 38 year old public servant. Having spent twenty years in a 'spiritual wilderness', Margy had an experience of conversion last year which changed her life and brought her 'home'.

After twenty years of 'wandering', God reached out and touched my heart in a special way. I discovered I wanted to return to the practice of my Catholic faith. In the wake of this 'conversion' I needed a place to go, to ask questions, to talk about this intense 'God experience' that had turned my life upside down. I turned to the Cathedral parish because for me it is the focus for the Catholic Church in this city. I always feel better after having spent some time there be it at Mass or just sitting or praying. I feel God's love, compassion, forgiveness and total acceptance of who I am. These are precious gifts to all, but

for me who had strayed so far away, to experience them is a blessing beyond words.

During these recent months since I first heard God's call, I've drawn strength from the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I've listened hard to the liturgy, scriptures and homilies and learnt so much. I've been encouraged, stimulated and lifted up time and time again. As my conversion has deepened I have felt a strong desire to reach out to other alienated Catholics. In fact, I believe that this is the mission God has given me: to start such a group. I have established some valuable contacts and my plans are beginning to take shape. At times I get cold feet and think 'What on earth am I doing?!' But then I remember that God has been so gracious to me, how can I not share these gifts with others? (MG)

This week: Invite the Holy Spirit into your life...if you dare!

A moment of empowerment

As a child I lived in a remote part of Australia where religious resources were scarce. My entire Confirmation preparation consisted of reading a book about saintly heroes. It was called 'Come Rack, Come Rope', an old-style, heavily embellished account of the lives of the martyrs. Rather gruesome, really! But at the time I thought it was pretty terrific stuff. I remember feeling all fired up - ready to go to the gallows for the sake of my faith...at age eleven! (MP)

Spirit of surprises

Our friends in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offered to pray over us! Well it wasn't really our style at all, but my wife and I didn't want to offend these good people, so we dutifully allowed them to lay hands on us and call upon the Holy Spirit to fill our lives. As I expected, 'nothing happened'. We thanked them and got on with life as usual—or so we thought. Within a month my wife and I had surprised ourselves by volunteering for a significant leadership role in our parish; something we would normally never have done and a decision which, over the years, has changed our lives considerably. From being 'passive' Catholics we have become increasingly 'active'. Perhaps that prayer to the Holy Spirit had something to do with it...? (Gary)

Think...Talk

Have you ever had a 'God experience' like that of our storytellers this week?

- How did it change you?
- How did other's react?
- In what way were you 'sent forth' to share the Good News?



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

A publication of
The Story Source, © 1992-2002.

www.TeresaPirola.net