

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:1-11

We are one body of Christ. 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13

As the Father sent me... John 20:19-23

Next week:

The extent of God's love.

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

In a nutshell

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the world, unleashed through the risen Christ. The scriptures tell us the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus and enabled the birth of the Church. We believe the same Spirit is active today, empowering every believer who welcomes the Lord's forgiveness and peace.



Young Christian Workers, CYO, Charismatic Renewal, St Vincent de Paul... Our century has seen many lay associations and movements emerge in the Church as instruments of renewal. Each has its time, place and charism. Together their stories trace the workings of the Holy Spirit. Here is one small part of the story.

The Spirit at work

One of the rewards of parenting is watching your children blossom through adolescence. Our two boys, Eddie and Ryan, have had their share of difficulties during their teenage years. I would often ask God when this time of disruption would be over and we could get on with a normal happy life. I never thought we would be saved by our own parish community.

Our parish introduced a group for youth called Antioch. It is a ministry of youth to youth. I was initially sceptical about the claims some people made as I was wary of how the blind could lead the blind. But I agreed to let the boys go along. I watched Eddie and Ryan become more involved, undertaking various

leadership roles. To my amazement, they stopped being so angry at each other and would even offer help around the home. This did not happen all the time mind you, but they did show signs of growing into considerate young people.

I thought this was good, but it wasn't until I was invited along to hear one of the talks that the secret of youth to youth ministry was revealed to me. I watched and listened as these young people (our boys included) gave real, honest witness to God active in their lives. I saw healing and joy before me.

I know a lot of theory about how people change and grow, but what I saw on this weekend—and in the months that followed—was tangible evidence that the Spirit is truly alive and powerfully active in our youthful Church. (Greg)

Share a story of how God's love touched you through a church association or renewal movement.

The Spirit at work

St Therese of Lisieux showed that true holiness could be achieved by doing the ordinary, everyday tasks with love. One person touched by this spirituality was Anna Cotter, a Sister of Charity in Sydney. About 1918 Anna started the Theresian Club, an association of Catholic women who made a remarkable contribution to the Church in Australia through their works of catechesis and care for families. A book that tells the story of the Theresians is: *Following the Little Way* by Helena Farland (Kensington: Chevalier Press, 1998).

Peace be with you...

Lindsay, 7, and I were studying the CD-Rom on dinosaurs. Lindsay was sure it would help my work as a teacher of senior English. I didn't have the heart to tell her that dinosaurs didn't figure largely in the HSC English Syllabus. However there was plenty of pleasure in seeing her whizz confidently about the screen, chatting casually about herbivores and habitats. As I watched she confided, 'I used to be frightened of the tigers in this. But then I remembered that God always looks after us. God has to look after so many people all at the same time, so we have to help by looking after each other.'

'Who taught you this?' I asked, thinking that deep issues were being discussed at home or at school, or both. 'I just know...' she replied. (T.E.)

Think...Talk...Pray

Describe a time you witnessed the Holy Spirit at work in your life or in the lives of those around you
(i) in a dramatic, forceful way.
(ii) in a simple, quiet way.
Pray for the peace of Christ to ease a fear or an anxiety within yourself or a loved one.



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

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