



Pentecost Sunday May 31, 2020

There appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

— Acts 2:3

THE RICHNESS OF THE SPIRIT

Students, and most adults recalling their school days, are familiar with the phrase “compare and contrast” that shows up from time to time on tests. Today we hear two different accounts of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. Let’s contrast, then compare. Luke’s account from Acts is filled with arresting details: the mighty wind from heaven, the tongues of flame, the miracle of different languages. John’s account seems timid: fearful disciples, the wounded Christ, the expelling of breath from his risen body, not from the sky. Our literal, modern minds wonder which way it happened; our noisy culture probably makes us prefer the former. But if we compare the two, we find that the dazzling richness of the Spirit fills both accounts, for it is the very breath of the risen Christ, ascended to the sky in Luke, that appears to his disciples in John and sends his followers forth to carry on his mission of forgiving sin and proclaiming the mighty acts of God. --J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND HIS COMPANIONS

(martyred 1886-87)

June 3

“Master of Pages,” reputedly the handsomest man in all Uganda, Charles Lwanga, lay catechist, courageously led about forty teenaged boys, Catholics and Anglicans, on a forty-mile forced march to martyrdom for their common Christian faith. Teaching each other the hymns of their different churches, they strengthened one another for the ordeal ahead. King Mwanga, himself barely twenty, had ordered them executed for being “those who pray.” But these royal pages were the king’s male harem, who, now Christians, refused what pious accounts demurely describe as his “unreasonable demands.” Some were clubbed to death, most burned alive; the youngest, thirteen-year old Saint Kizito, whom Charles had often shielded from the King’s lust; the most tragic, Saint Mbage, whose father was his executioner! In 1964, Paul VI canonized the young Catholics and praised their Anglican companions, recalling the heroism of early Christianity’s African martyrs, which we modern Christians of far less faith never expected to see repeated. Forty years after the pope’s words, what does our faith cost us? Heroism aside, how generous is our response?

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34
Tues 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Ps 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16; Mk 12:13-17
Wed: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2; Mk 12:18-27
Thurs: 2 Tm 2:8-15; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Mk 12:28-34
Fri: 2 Tm 3:10-17; Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; 1-6; Mk 12:35-37
Sat: 2 Tm 4:1-8; Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22; Mk 12:38-44
Sun: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52-55; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

saint snippets

Please repent and become a Christian like me.

St. Charles Lwanga
19th-century Ugandan and a page in the king's court. When the king ordered the massacre of Christians in his kingdom, Lwanga sought baptism and was martyred.
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June 3

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **May/June** offerings:

PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish,

P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website

www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. *Include your offering envelope # with your donation.*

5/31: Rural Food. 6/7: Dioc. Priest Ben. Welfare.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA

Finance Council [FC]: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled for now

Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now



Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

cancelled for now

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Fr. Bala is more than willing to fulfill Mass Intentions in his daily Private Mass celebration. (There is a customary \$10 stipend for any Mass Intention.) But it is left to the wish of those who have already submitted (or have yet to submit) to the office their Intentions, as to choice of a private or public Mass. Email to philip.teresa@yahoo.com Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday
Monday: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Ninth Week in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: Ss. Marcellinus and Peter
Wednesday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions
Friday: St. Boniface; First Friday
Saturday: St. Norbert; First Saturday

Prayer Requests: Leave a message at 707-408-2650 to add, edit, or delete names.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen,, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Joseph, Christine, James, Pat P.



Memo from Parish Bookkeeper Val:

“Many more people are using Paypal. They need to know to add their envelope # to every transaction [as a “special instruction”] if they want their donation accounted for [on tax donation record]. Thank you!”

Pastor Speaks...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We will not reopen our churches unless and until we are prepared and do all the needed things. We are to follow the protocols to be in place before reopening.

We will continue to do either streaming or video recording Sunday/Solemnity/Holy Day Masses.

With prayerful wishes and blessings,
Father Bala

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: MAY 2020

Under stormy skies, 100 families received nutritional support on May 12. In between rain showers one could hear the expressions of appreciation among recipient families as volunteers filled their vehicles with much needed food. We will maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks as indicated for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and volunteers. Thank you for your donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall:

Saturday, June 6, 9-10:00 am repackaging. Monday, June 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm set up. Tuesday, June 9, 8:30 – 11:00am distribution of food to clients.

"A picture is worth a thousand words."



Just Tap On The Wall If You Need Me

After several weeks of confinement, deprived of social, even facial contact of the most ordinary kind, Mass attendance, regular meetings discussing things with friends, getting out to breakfast at familiar places, the proximity of bodies without fear of recoil, the monotony of one's "sheltering" in place (which I guess is what the disciples in today's first reading were doing way back then), it's Pentecost and time to call upon Marcel Proust's grandmother for help – as I have in the past.

Of course that first Pentecost caused a ruckus – the outbreak of the Holy Spirit blew things wide open. But I will

settle for a less pyrotechnical pentecost – like the one Marcel had at the seaside resort of Balbec (in his masterpiece *In Search of Lost Time*).

He describes himself much as I would describe myself now. Balbec and especially its Grand Hotel intimidated him. Its grand staircase, its elevator to a room far above the lobby, the impersonal behavior of the staff, the unfamiliar objects of his room, things which did not know him, seeming distrustful of him, the clock *persistently* speaking in an unknown tongue. He was half dead with exhaustion from his trip, burning with fever, unable to rest. Then his companion, his grandmother, *came in, and in the expansion of my constricted heart there opened at once an infinity of space.*

He goes on to say, *I threw myself into the arms of my grandmother . . . and pressed my lips to her face as though I were gaining access to that immense heart which she opened to me. And she gently responded, You just tap on the wall if you need me during the night. I'm just on the other side and the partition is quite thin.*

It was also the Spirit in the guise of his grandmother who roused Marcel the next morning to show him Balbec at dawn, to transform his fear into fascination before a vision of a sea so vast and *the snowy crests of its emerald waves.* It was also she who, as they sat within the hotel's glass enclosed dining room that morning, opened a window to let in a breeze that sent menus, newspapers, hats and veils flying - much to the chagrin of the other guests, but to her own delight as she sat *fortified by the celestial draft.* Which goes to show that this grandmother was as capable of creating a ruckus as was the Spirit of our first Pentecost reading.

But right now during this prolonged lockdown I prefer to be the played-out Marcel, to tap tentatively upon my lockdown wall three times in hopes of hearing three others, *in a different tone from mine, stamped with a calm authority , , , saying to me plainly, "Don't be agitated; I've heard you; I shall be with you in a minute . . . Mistake my poor pet's knocking for anyone else's! Why, Granny could tell it a mile away! Do you suppose there's anyone else in the world who's such a silly-billy, with such febrile little knuckles, so afraid of waking me up and of not making me understand? Even if it just gave the tiniest scratch . . . I could hear it just now, trying to make up its mind . . ."*

*Come, Holy Spirit, come! / You, of comforters the best; /
You, the soul's most welcome guest; / . . .
Grateful coolness in the heat; /
Solace in the midst of woe . . .*

--Geoff Wood, 5/31/2020