

For The Bulletin of May 24, 2015

PENTECOST

From Father Robert

We celebrate today a wondrous and unprecedented gift of God – “the Spirit of truth” given to us. This Spirit of truth God gives is relational. This Spirit of truth changes us – through the Spirit we share a common identity as the Body of Christ and take up a common mission to proclaim the Gospel by the sheer goodness of our lives. The Spirit enables us to live with one another in a new way: with “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity.” The Spirit propels us to engage with the world in a new way: we “testify” to the “mighty acts of God” through the very way that we live. The truth God gives transforms us and, through us, transforms the world.

According to today’s gospel, both the Spirit and the disciples testify to Jesus. What is this testimony? It is the revelation that Jesus is of the Father, is the divine Son. Moreover, this gospel says that the Spirit glorifies Jesus by testifying. So then do we. What is this glory? It is Jesus Himself Who is the visible presence of the Father. Like the Spirit of truth, when we testify we also glorify.

This Pentecost commemoration does not simply recall a past event, but celebrates what God is doing within us now. In baptism each of us received the Spirit; that is our Pentecost. The Spirit is not something we have, is not a possession. The Spirit dwells within us as divine Life, enabling us to be faithful and true disciples. The Spirit is given for the sake

of mission: to proclaim the gospel, to be molded as disciples, and, ultimately, to worship. The indwelling of the Spirit is a continual Pentecost so that everyone can hear of the “mighty acts of God” and thus bring glory to God.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Our daily living is to “testify” to the Spirit of truth Who dwells within us. We often think of “truth” in terms of “truths” - dogmas to believe. The gospel leads us to something far more dynamic, relational. The Spirit Who dwells in each of us enfleshes within us the “mighty acts of God.” Truth is being faithful to the identity and mission offered to us. Truth is what is of God.

If we are to be living icons of the Spirit of truth dwelling within us, then the good choices we make daily testify to this divine indwelling. Simply put, Pentecost invites us to act like God! Although our testimony is not about ourselves – it is about the risen Jesus as the Son of God present among us and bringing us to salvation – in one respect it truly is about ourselves. Through the indwelling Spirit we are made members of the Body of Christ. We are living icons of the Spirit of truth, and living icons of the risen Jesus Who dwells within and among us.

If we are to exude the fruits of the Spirit, we must be willing to die to ourselves. We cannot love another if we do not give of ourselves to others. We cannot have joy if we are turned in on ourselves. We cannot have peace if we are distracted by getting and doing only what we want. We cannot have patience if we do not respect the dignity of others. We cannot have gentleness if we do not see the need in others. We cannot have

self-control if we don't put the good of others first. We cannot have any of these fruits if we do not live the wondrous mystery of the Spirit dwelling within us. Come, Holy Spirit!

As we bring the Great Fifty Days of the Easter to a conclusion once again, how have you heard today's scripture passages? Have they made any difference in your life? How will you live as a result of hearing them anew today?

- The testimony I give of the risen Jesus is...
- I glorify the risen Jesus when...
- The Spirit of truth leads me to...

The Floral Arrangement at the Altar this weekend is placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of Marriage of Forrest and Penny Towe. Congratulations and may God continue to bless you with the best of health and many more years of happiness.

Return To Ordinary Time

We resume Spring's Ordinary Time tomorrow, Monday, May 25th. It is now that we take up Jesus' paschal mission and live what we have been celebrating. All good things come to an end and we must get on with our life. So it is with Easter. The celebration of the paschal season comes to an end today. Now we must live what the celebration means. The Pentecost environment will remain in place through the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, three weeks from now, after which the environment will change to the green of Ordinary Time.

Conclusion to Mystagoga

During the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning, the neophytes (newly-

baptized), **Genevieve, Pam, and Robert**, will come to the conclusion of the period of Mystagoga, the time between Easter and Pentecost when they explored the meaning and significance of our sacramental life. Today, at the conclusion of the RCIA process, they declare how God has moved within their heart and life, how they have reflected on the gifts they have been given, and how those gifts will be used to build up the Body of Christ. Once again, we congratulate them and welcome them to ministry and living the Good News of Jesus!

Our Knights of Columbus

Also today during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, our Knights of Columbus are taking responsibility for all the ministries of the liturgy: greeters, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and Senior Acolytes. We are grateful for their participation and presence in such a powerful way. On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank them for all that they do for our parish, not just today, but literally every day of the week.

The Portuguese Community Celebrates The Holy Spirit

Next Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m., the Portuguese Community will celebrate the "Festa do Espirito Santo," the Feast of the Holy Spirit. I will be presiding and preaching for this liturgy which takes place in their hall on Tenth Street. The liturgy is followed by a wonderful, traditional meal of "Soupas," marinated meat with mint, served with gravy and bread. The celebration recalls the miracle during the reign of Queen St. Elizabeth of Portugal when food arrived by ship to feed the Portuguese people during a famine which cost the lives of many people. How blessed we

are to have members of the Portuguese community in our parish who enrich us with their customs, traditions, and foods. We wish them much happiness and success on this special day. In my absence, we will once again welcome **Fr. Ricardo Chavez** as our Presider and homilist for the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy next Sunday.

Eucharistic Minister Training

On Sunday, June 7th, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, there will be a training session for all current and new Eucharistic Ministers. The training will update training and the protocol for all ministers. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be with us. I will be present and participate in the training process.

Lector Training

On Tuesday, June 9th, our Lectors, both new as well as veterans, will gather for training and an update by our new Lector Coordinators, **Steve and Frances Rojek**. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to be with us. If you will not be able to attend, please be sure to contact either Steve or Frances to find out what you have missed and what you need to know!

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

Our next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday, June 12th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The site for the witness is International Christian Ministries, located at G and Madill Sts.

Altar Servers Pizza Night and Recognition

On Tuesday, June 16th, our Altar Servers will be treated to Pizza and then will be honored and recognized for their service

to our community. If your child is an Altar Server, please contact Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pastoral Associate, through the Parish Office to let him know your child will be attending. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Gifts and Memorials

There are opportunities for individuals and families to honor or memorialize a loved one by designating something for the church, such as the Icons or the new Presidential and Diaconal Chairs, or flower arrangements at the Altar and Ambo. If you are interested in providing something in honor of or in loving memory of a family member or friend, please speak with me and I will assist you in making your gift possible.

Thank You

What would our parish do were it not for all the volunteers who share of their time and talent to help us accomplish our mission? We continue to recognize and thank:

...those who come early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jack Goncalves, Rose Salamanca, Alfred Madoshi, Angela Bueno, Reno Benasfre, Nancy Santos, Charlie Mirano, Jun Bajet, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

SPRED Liturgy – From Vicki McCoy

Thank you to Father Robert for celebrating First Eucharist and Confirmation for two of our SPRED Friends, **Michele Gonzales and Kevin Ottosen**. SPRED is the Special Religious Education Department of the Diocese of Oakland.

Beginning at St. Ignatius of Antioch in 1996, our center is one of 28 centers in the Oakland Diocese supporting the spiritual life of children and adults with special needs. In addition to Father Robert, we would like to thank **Father Griener** for assisting in the administration of the Sacraments, **Don Pearson and our wonderful Choir** for heightening the experience of Christ's sacred presence in the liturgy, **Frances and Steve Rojek and Lorraine Lohmeier** for their assistance in preparing the beautiful reception following the Mass, and to all our parishioners who attended the reception and congratulated Michele and Kevin.

A very special thank you to the St. Ignatius of Antioch Knights of Columbus who support SPRED every year thru their Tootsie Roll Drive. The ministry of SPRED at St. Ignatius of Antioch continues because of the generosity of our Knights.

Thank you to our SPRED Catechists, **Susan Fleming, Evie Viera, Mitzi Reagan, and Yolanda Garcia**, who help nurture the faith life of our Friends. Lastly thank you to our SPRED Friends who make us all better people.

Vicki McCoy
SPRED Leader Catechist

Christians lose ground, 'nones' soar in new portrait of US religion

[Cathy Lynn Grossman Religion News Service](#) | May. 12, 2015

The United States is a significantly less Christian country than it was seven years ago.

That's the top finding -- one that will ricochet through American faith, culture and politics -- in the Pew Research Center's newest report, "[America's Changing Religious Landscape](#)," released Tuesday.

This trend "is big, it's broad and it's everywhere," said Alan Cooperman, Pew's director of religion research. Christianity still dominates American religious identity (70 percent), but the survey shows dramatic shifts as more people move out the doors of denominations, shedding spiritual connections along the way.

Atheists and agnostics have nearly doubled their share of the religious marketplace, and overall indifference to religion of any sort is rising as well. Among the larger Christian bodies, only the historically black Protestant churches have held a steady grip through the years of change.

Remember the familiar map of American religion? The South: a bastion of white evangelicals. The Northeast: cradle of Catholics. The Midwest: nest of mainline Protestants. The West: incubator of "nones" -- people who claim no religious brand label. Well, scratch all that in the new topography.

The shrinking numbers of Christians and their loss of market share are the most significant changes between 2007 (when [Pew did its first U.S. Religious Landscape survey](#)) and the new, equally massive survey of 35,000 U.S. adults. The percentage of people who describe themselves as Christians fell about 8 points -- from 78.4 to 70.6. This

includes people in virtually all demographic groups, whether they are "nearing retirement or just entering adulthood, married or single, living in the West or the Bible Belt," according to the survey report.

[State by state and regional data](#) show:

- Massachusetts is down on Catholics by 10 percentage points. South Carolina is down the same degree on evangelicals.
- Mainline Protestants, already sliding for 40 years or more, declined all over the Midwest by 3 to 4 percentage points.
- The Southern Baptist Convention and the United Methodist Church, the country's two largest Protestant denominations, are each down roughly the same 1.4 to 1.5 percentage points.
- Every tradition took a hit in in the West as the number of people who claim no religious brand continues to climb.

Christian faiths are troubled by generational change -- each successive group is less connected than that group's parents -- and by "switching" at all ages, the report shows. While nearly 86 percent of Americans say they grew up as Christians, nearly one in five (19 percent) say they aren't so anymore. "Overall, there are more than four former Christians for every convert to Christianity," Cooperman said. Although evangelicals are part of the decline, their slide has been less steep. They benefit from more people joining evangelical traditions, but they're hurt by generational change and by America's increased diversity.

According to the survey, white "born-again or evangelical" Protestants -- closely watched for their political clout within the GOP -- now account for 19 percent of American adults, down slightly from 21 percent in 2007. Politicians should take note, said Mike Hout, a sociologist and demographer at New York University who is also a co-director of the General Social Survey, a biennial national demographic survey. "Traditionally, we thought religion was the mover and politics were the consequence," he said. Today, it's the opposite.

Many of today's formerly faithful left conservative evangelical or Catholic denominations because "they saw them align with a conservative political agenda and they don't want to be identified with that," Hout said.

Catholics dropped both in market share and in real numbers. Despite their high retention rate for people reared in the faith, they have a low conversion rate. Today, Cooperman said, 13 percent of U.S. adults are former Catholics, up from 10 percent in 2007.

Generational shifts are also hurting Catholic numbers. Greg Smith, Pew's associate director of research, said "just 16 percent of the 18-to-24-year-olds today are Catholic, and that is not enough to offset the numbers lost to the aging and switching."

Where are they going? To religious nowhere.

The nones -- Americans who are unaffiliated with brand-name religion -- are the new major force in American faith. And they are more secular in

outlook -- and "more comfortable admitting it" than ever before, said John Green, director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. Their growth spans the generations, as well as racial and ethnic groups, said Green, a senior fellow in religion and American politics for the Pew Research Center.

Nones, at 22.8 percent of the U.S. (up from 16 just eight years ago) run second only to evangelicals (25.4 percent) and ahead of Catholics (20.8 percent) in religious market share.

The nones' numbers are now big enough to show noteworthy diversity: Atheists rose from 1.6 percent to 3.1 percent, and agnostics from 2.4 to 4 percent. Combined, there are more nones than Evangelical Lutherans, United Methodists and Episcopalians all together.

"It's because we're right," said David Silverman, president of American Atheists. He hadn't yet seen the Pew findings but commented based on other surveys he said showed nones' rising numbers. Indeed, it's the public attention given to nones in the last decade, combined with the wide-open access to anti-religious discussion on the Internet, that drives the change, Silverman said. "More people know the facts, and more people realize they are not alone," Silverman said. And with these shifts, the stigma of coming out as an atheist is lessening. "It's now impossible for an atheist to think he is alone in this world. They are automatically empowered," Silverman said.

The bulk of the nones (15.8 percent, up from 12.1 percent in 2007) don't even

commit to any view on God. Instead, they say they believe "nothing in particular."

But among the "nothings," there's a distinct split between "spiritual" and totally indifferent nones.

Thirty percent of all nones still showed "a sort of religious pulse" by saying that religion is still at least somewhat important to them, Cooperman said. However, the bulk of this group (39 percent) are not agnostic, atheist or vaguely spiritual -- they're just not interested. Religion is not even somewhat important to them.

That same level of disinterest cuts into their social and political clout, Hout said. The nothing-in-particular folks "don't vote, don't marry and don't have kids" at the same rate as other Americans, Hout said. "They are allergic to large, organized institutions -- mass media, religions, big corporations and political parties."

"None" is the winning category for religious switchers across society, particularly among gays and lesbians -- 41 percent of gay or lesbian Americans say they have no religion, Cooperman said. "This suggests the degree of alienation and discomfort and sense of being unwelcome that they may have felt in traditional religious groups."

Other trends of note:

Intermarriage is rising with each generation. Among Americans who have gotten married since 2010, nearly 4 in 10 (39 percent) report that they are in religiously mixed marriages, compared with 19 percent among those who got married before 1960, according to the report.

There's an identity gender gap. Most Christians are women (55 percent) and most nones are men (57 percent). However, women's unbelief numbers are growing: Nearly one in five (19 percent) now say they have no religious identity.

Diversity makes a difference. Racial and ethnic minorities now make up 41 percent of Catholics (up from 35 percent in 2007), 24 percent of evangelicals (up from 19 percent) and 14 percent of mainline Protestants (up from 9 percent). "The share of Americans who identify with non-Christian faiths also has inched up, rising 1.2 percentage points, from 4.7 percent in 2007 to 5.9 percent in 2014. Growth has been especially great among Muslims and Hindus," the report says.

The latest survey was conducted among a nationally representative sample of 35,071 adults interviewed by telephone, on both cellphones and landlines, from June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. The margin of error on overall findings is plus or minus 0.6 percentage points.

Congratulations To Our Graduates

Our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr will celebrate the graduation of the Eighth Grade Class this coming Friday, May 29th. Our congratulations and blessings to the following students: **Gerardo Lopez, Marco Almanza, Jerald Bisbee, Yesenia Cardona, Melody Coats, Anthony Crosby, Brianna Ferris, Anthony Gamboa, Nicholas Guerrero, De'Andre Herron, Emmanuel Longoria, Jesse Molinar, Nicholas Montez, Victor Montez, Aria Nguyen, Natalie Nicolosi, Nicole Ramos, Rhaviel Rivera, Christina Rodriguez, Isabelle Ross, Marie Sa Rumsey, Jewelle Segarra, Ashly Sublasky, Trey**

Turner, Jeryn Williams, and Christian Zaldana.

Relay for Life Dinner

What a wonderful evening of dining, music and dancing! The St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life Team hosted a delightful evening dinner for eighty guests! The evening fare included pasta with meatballs, spring salad, French bread and dessert, all prepared and donated by **Dave Costanza, Brian McCoy and Vicki McCoy**. There were many wonderful raffle prizes, and silent auction items for the guests to try their luck in winning. The Summerset Big Band featuring **Alicia Perez**, vocalist, was a hit and had people on their feet dancing to the great songs.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came out to help and made this evening so successful! **Servers: Shanelle Torrez, Luz Carrasco, Dominic Sinisi and Marisa Sinisi. Set up of tables, chairs, and decorations: Don Benson, Rich Confetti, Jose Perez, Alicia Perez, Bob Plurkowski, Marla Plurkowski and Maryann Peddicord. Ticket sales, drink sales, table covers: Pam Confetti, Jose Perez, Carlos Carrasco, Lorraine Lohmeier. Kitchen Staff: Dave Costanza, Brian McCoy, Vicki McCoy, Carole Miller, Al Cosce and Tomas Lucia. Raffle Prize and Auction items Donations: Marla and Bob Plurkowski, Alicia Perez, Lorraine Lohmeier, Pam Confetti, Frances Rojek, Winter Chevrolet, Brian and Vicki McCoy and Dave Costanza.** Finally a thank you to our guests for their time and treasure in helping us raise money for the American Cancer Society! We raised \$1,822, which will all be donated to the ACS. God Bless and may we see a cure to all cancers sometime soon! – *Alicia Perez*

