

Intentions for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday, May 22, Pentecost Sunday (Vigil)

5:00 pm Anne & Fred Roys

Sunday, May 23, Pentecost Sunday

9:00 am Jean & Sal Calabro

12:00 pm Robert O'Keefe (3rd Anniversary)

Monday, May 24, weekday in Ordinary Time

12:00 pm Deceased Members of the Weadock Family

Tuesday, May 25, The Venerable Bede

12:00 pm Mary Cervini

Wednesday, May 26, St. Philip Neri

12:00 pm Roslyn Savoca

Thursday, May 27, St. Augustine of Canterbury

12:00 pm For the Intentions of the Holy Father

Friday, May 28, weekday in Ordinary Time

12:00 pm Herbert Phifer

Saturday, May 29, Trinity Sunday (Vigil)

5:00 pm Joseph Betts (Birthday Remembrance)

Sunday, May 30, Trinity Sunday

9:00 am Rose Yandolino

12:00 pm Frank Hems (Birthday Remembrance)

Attendance and Collections

Our attendance for Sunday, May 16, was 151. The regular collection was \$1248. The second collection for the Catholic Relief Services was \$197. Thank you for your generosity.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Please pray for our sick parishioners: Patti Adcroft, Mary Barone, Mary Billings, Anne Cahill, Kara Jean Fleming, Margaret Flynn, Sister Eileen McCabe, Carol Mohler, Jacqueline O'Grady, Clara Rancier, Matthew John Ruiz, Fred Serafini. If you know of a parishioner who is sick, please contact the Rectory.

Visit to the Sick, Homebound, or Hospitalized

If you or someone you know is sick, homebound, or hospitalized and would like a visit from a priest for Confession, Communion, or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Rectory.

Mass for Cardinal Egan

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan cordially invites you to a Mass on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Cardinal Egan's Episcopal Consecration to be celebrated at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, May 23, 2010, at 12:00 noon.

Mother's Day Novena

This year our Mother's Day Novena will run from Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day, through Monday, May 17. A novena is a series of nine Masses for a particular intention. This novena was an opportunity to express love for a special mother, grandmother, godmother, mother-in-law, an expectant mother, or any woman who has played a motherly role in your life.

Mother's Day Novena and Flower Remembrances

DECEASED

Isabel Betts

Juanita Bishop

Nora Bowe

Juana Cabrera

Sis Connolly

Elizabeth Dominkowitz

Mrs. Donovan

Mary Dwan

Florence Francoeur

Esther Garity

Madeline Geisen

Helen Heim

Martha Henry

Rasha Hoffman

Annetta Gomez-Jefferson

Myrtis Emma Johnson

Nancy Kenny

Mary Kubala

Jane Leonard

Juanita Lois

Catherine Mahoney

Jean Mainella

Margaret Monica & Mary McNiff

Kathleen O'Neil

Marie Paparelli

Josephine Paskewitz

Anne V. Roys

Roslyn Savoca

Elizabeth Talerico

Ann Tietjen

Ellen Tracey

Jane Vickers

Julia Waisman

Barbara Weadock

Mary Weadock

LIVING

Mary Califano

Pearl Tracy McDonald

Grace Morrison

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Father William G. Most

We turn now to the Seven Gifts of the sanctifying category. They are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

They each perfect certain basic virtues. Four of them perfect the intellectual virtues. Understanding gives an intuitive penetration into truth. Wisdom perfects charity, in order to judge divine things. Knowledge perfects the virtue of hope. The gift of counsel perfects prudence.

The other three gifts perfect virtues of the will and appetites. The gift of piety perfects justice in giving to others that which is their due. This is especially true of giving God what is His due. Fortitude perfects the virtue of fortitude, in facing dangers. Fear of the Lord perfects temperance in controlling disordered appetites.

To illustrate the difference between things done with the Gifts and those done with the ordinary virtues, we will take up the gift of counsel.

There are three kinds of guides a person may follow in making his decisions: (1) The whim of the moment. Aristotle in his *Ethics* 1.5 says that to act that way is a life fit for cattle, who do just what they happen to feel like doing. (2) Reason, which in practice is always aided by actual graces, which God gives so generously. For example, suppose I see three options open to me, all of which are moral. Ideally I would make at least mentally a list of the good points and of the bad points of each. Then, I would look over the whole board, and pick what gives the best effect for me. Or if I come to think I need penance for my sins, I would ask: How much have I sinned, so I can know how much penance? What kind of penance will fit with my health? With the obligations of my state in life? And after several steps, a decision is reached. This method is called discursive, since it moves from one step to another. (3) In the third and highest way, a soul does not go from one step to another, in a discursive process, but the answer is, as it were, dropped fully made and complete into his mind by the Gifts. This was the case of Our Lady, for example, at the Annunciation. If she had been operating in the ordinary mode, she might well have reasoned: Now my people have been waiting for centuries for the Messiah (as soon as Gabriel said He would reign over the house of Jacob forever, even any ordinary Jew would have known that He was the Messiah). Now He is here. I should share this news with others, especially the authorities in Jerusalem. And what about my husband, Joseph? In a short time he will not be able to avoid dark thoughts. But the Gospel shows she did none of these things. God needed to send a special angel to tell Joseph. So the Gifts can lead souls to points not contrary to reason, but far more lofty than what reason would suggest.

Note the following from St. John of the Cross (*Ascent* 3.2.10; cf. *Living Flame* 1.4; 1.9 and 2.34): "God alone moves the powers of these souls . . . to those deeds which are suitable, according to the will and plan of God, and they cannot be moved to others. . . . Such were the actions of the most glorious Virgin, our Lady, who, being elevated from the beginning [of her life] to this lofty state, had never the form of any creature impressed on her, nor was moved by such, but was always moved by the Holy Spirit."

But there is a danger: a soul could mistake its own desires for action of the Gifts, since the reasons are not clear to it. Two points must be kept in mind: (1) The full and apparent action of these gifts does not appear until one is well advanced in the spiritual life (hidden assistance by them can come earlier). (2) Ordinarily an inspiration via the Gifts leaves the soul not fully certain—a signal to consult a director or superior. Uncommonly they will give certitude, but only when a decision must be made on the spot, and there is no time to consult.

When a soul acts with usual actual graces God is the most important actor, yet the faculties of the human do churn out the result—hence it is easy to suppose the work is done basically by that soul. But under the action of the Gifts, the soul is more passive, and its own faculties contribute even less.

Pentecost

Pentecost is the feast of the universal Church which commemorates the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, on the ancient Jewish festival called the "feast of weeks" or Pentecost (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). It is also called Whitsunday, from the white garments, which were worn by those who were baptized during the vigil; "Pentecost" is the Greek for "the fiftieth" (day after Easter). Whitsunday, as a Christian feast, dates back to the first century. St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8) probably refers to the same Jewish feast. This is not surprising, for the feast, originally of only one day's duration, always, fell on a Sunday, as it does now. It marks the termination of Paschal or Easter tide and the resumption of Ordinary Time.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.