

MAY 20, 2018 - PENTECOST SUNDAY - MASS DURING THE DAY

Pentecost Sunday - Mass during the Day

Reading 1 [ACTS 2:1-11](#)

Responsorial Psalm [PS 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34](#)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Reading 2 [GAL 5:16-25](#)

[JN 15:26-27; 16:12-15](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

HOMILY

Helen Keller was born in 1880 in Alabama, without sight or hearing. Lacking these two senses, it was assumed that she would live a life of almost entire isolation and loneliness. However, as is well known, she was taught to understand the world by Anne Sullivan. Later, she becomes an influential social activist. Her life was made famous by the play and movie *The Miracle Worker*. The story is told that after Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, had given her the names of physical objects in sign language, Miss Sullivan attempted to explain God and tapped out the symbols for the name "God." Much to Miss Sullivan's surprise, Helen spelled back, "Thank you for telling me God's name, Teacher, for he has touched me many times before." Helen Keller knew something of God's signature from nature, but it was wordless. She needed someone to tell her about God, and to share who God was and what was the name of God.

On this feast of Pentecost, we consider the name of God which is the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is like Anne Sullivan in the story, for it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can know God, who God is and what God has done for us. For, when it comes to God, it turns out we are all deaf and blind like Helen Keller. But, like Helen, we can feel God, sense God's presence, even if we cannot see God nor hear God. Helen teaches us that, even if we cannot hear or see something does not mean it is not real.

Since we struggle to see or hear God, we need God himself to reach out to us and touch us—this is the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus promised us: "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

How do we find this Holy Spirit, so that we can find God? The truth is this: we can't. The Good News however is this: the Holy Spirit is seeking us to find us constantly—all the time. We rest in Jesus' promise: The Father will send the Holy Spirit in Christ's name, so that we are never lost and without God. What are we to "do" then? Ask the Father to send his Spirit again, new, in the seven gifts of the Spirit.

- When searching to know the ways of God, ask HS for wisdom.
- When confused about how to make an important decision, or to live a godly life, ask HS for understanding.
- When unsure about what is right and what is wrong, ask HS for counsel.
- When afraid, when fearful, ask HS for fortitude, or courage.
- When the ways of God seem confusing, or our faith is not clear, ask HS for knowledge.
- When feeling weak or inadequate, ask HS for piety, that is, a deep respect for God as God. Then we don't need to be God.
- When tempted, ask HS for the fear of the Lord, the last gift of the HS, a strong desire to avoid anything that would displease God.

These prayers are all asking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, asking God to find us in our many needs.

Jesus has promised us—he will not leave us alone—he will send us His Spirit to be with us, to guide us. Feeling confused, isolated, or alone? Remember, you are Helen Keller—you will never on your own ever be able to see or hear God—you need someone to show you God. That someone is the Holy Spirit. We can remain confused and trying to do what we can't ever do—find God on our own. Or, we can pray, in song, the prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking the Holy Spirit to come and show us God. Let's sing #445, "Come Holy Ghost."

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid to fill our hearts which thou hast made,
To fill our hearts which Thou has made.

O Comforter, to thee we cry, Thou heav'nly gift of God most high;
Thou fount of life, and fire of love, And sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, And Holy Spirit with them one;
And may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.