

Homily for Pentecost Sunday  
June 9, 2019  
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An inscription was found on a small gravestone in Britain at the end of World War II. Many of you may know it. The inscription read “there is not enough darkness in the whole world to put out the light of one small candle” ... Let that soak in for a moment.... “there is not enough darkness in the whole world to put out the light of one small candle” ... For the past seven weeks we have kept this Easter Candle here in the sanctuary, lighting it every time we celebrate Mass. That living flame reminds us that Christ is alive, that he rose from the dead just as the sun rises each morning to put an end to the darkness of the night. It’s height, its length, reminds us of Gods faithfulness throughout all of history. It symbolized the two miraculous pillars - smoke by day and fire by night - that had guided the ancient Israelites out of Egypt, through the desert, and to the Promised Land. Now it is Christ, the Risen Lord, who is our pillar of smoke and pillar of fire, our sure guide out of slavery to sin, through this world of trials and temptations, and into the Promised Land of Heaven. But today is the last day the Easter Candle will be here by the ambo and in our sanctuary. we will only use it during baptism ceremonies Until next Easter when we light it again. Does the removal of the Easter Candle mean that Christ is no longer among us?

No. The sanctuary lamp beside the Tabernacle reminds us that Christ hasn't gone on vacation.

Rather, today is Pentecost, the day when Christ's risen life was entrusted to the Church by the gift of the Holy Spirit, who descended like tongues of fire on the Apostles nine days after Christ has ascended into heaven. That new season in the life of the Church is paralleled by our new liturgical season, Ordinary Time, when we take the Easter Candle out of the sanctuary, because we ourselves become living Easter Candles, pillars of Christian faith and love, the light of the burning flames of wisdom spreading Christ's hope in the world. For most of our Catholic life, the church has been telling us we are the light of the world. What does that really mean... How do we DO that. Well, first, we have to understand ourselves as light. Were any of you ever afraid of the dark? Did anyone here ever inspect their closet or check under their bed before you turned the light off and went to sleep? It's hard to explain a child's fear, but I'm sure all of us can attest that it was real. But one thing we all know, collectively, is that light dispels darkness. And as soon as we would turn that light on, the darkness would leave, and everything became clear. You could see. You could find the things you were looking for and confirm the absence of the things you were afraid of; what a comfort it was to have light. It's the same concept with us... When you find yourself being treated unfairly and darkness seems to be all around you, flip your light switch on! Let those treating you that way find the

Love in your heart! When you encounter someone else in life who seems to be in the dark, flip your light switch on!!! - Let them find the things they are looking for... the encouragement, the patience the goodness, and the love!!

You may have been given this advice before but “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.” It may seem hard, but Words are so powerful; always use them for good!! Come back when you’ve thought it through and flip that light switch on!!! Inspire one another by taking your speech seriously. In this age of social media, watch what you post online, anywhere!! People are watching, whether they interact with your posts or not. Flip your light switch on before you post - aim to make informed, respectful posts that represent your light in this world!! When Jesus came to this earth, He was the light of the world. And He said if we follow Him, we will have the light. As this Easter candle is removed from the sanctuary today, we now represent Him; we become the light of the world; and the expectation of us is to actively live out our faith and follow in His example. This was the call the church was making to you in the responsorial psalm today; Lord send out your spirit—. To renew the face of the earth.... That’s us!! We become like a city on a hill, light that cannot be hidden. Our very presence should bring hope and a chance for the world to see goodness and notice Christ’s presence, the Catholic love he passed on to the disciples ... a love the world may have been longing for but hadn’t been able to see until he

turned on the light! The love of Christ and the light of His truth shine through us and those rays penetrate the darkness of this world, I promise you!! And Jesus says, let your light shine! Don't be ashamed. Don't be intimidated. Don't cover your light to avoid others discovering it. Let it shine. Let it penetrate and dispel the darkness around you. Let them see your good works. Go into the world, go to every place as the one he sends!!! Let them see how you love. How you're kind and generous in situations of injustice. How you're patient and self-controlled in the midst of irritation and inefficiency. It is our choices that will ultimately be an example of Christ to the world and ultimately bring glory to God. And as our very lives reflect His light, He is glorified through us. We live to bring Him glory. On this Pentecost Sunday, when God sent his advocate to be with and to teach the disciples everything they needed to know, so is it today that the same Advocate, the Holy Spirit sends us out in the world, ready to teach us everything we need to know and to be its light... a gift from God... a gift that we have been given to share... so share it... and you don't have to be afraid of the tiniest bit of darkness or the entire darkness in the entire world because "there is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of YOUR Easter candle"!!