

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Whenever we try to describe God, our words fall short. This is because God cannot be seen or heard or touched. So, we end up using a variety of terms that in some part reveal who God is. This is especially true of the Holy Spirit. In today's gospel Jesus tells his disciples that the spirit is an "advocate." But this word in Greek, could just as easily be translated as a "comforter," "counselor," "companion," or the "Paraclete." The Holy Spirit is notoriously difficult to name.

This became particularly clear recently, when a group of European scholars attempted to translate the New Testament into the Karre language. Karre is the language of a small, isolated tribe in equatorial Africa. When the scholars came to today's passage from the gospel of John, they realized that in the Karre language there was no word for "advocate," "comforter," or "counselor." So, they came up with a unique solution. They noticed that in the life of the tribe, it was common that when a group would go out for a journey in the bush, each member of the group would carry a bundle of provisions on his head. Everyone would have a bundle to carry except for one person who carried nothing. The scholars originally thought that this person was the boss, and that was why he carried nothing. But they found out that they were wrong. The person who carried nothing had a particular job. If any member of the group fell down with exhaustion, this person would fall down next to him, and take up their burden and carry it. In the Karre language this person was called "the one who falls down beside us." The scholars decided to use this word to name the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the "one who falls down beside us," to take up the burdens we no longer can carry on our own.

What a beautiful image to describe the spirit of God in our lives! When we face trouble in our marriage or with our children and we try, over and over, again to make things better without success, the burden of that pain can weigh us down, and rob us of hope. Then, we need to believe that the Holy Spirit will fall down beside us and lift up our burdens so that we can hope again. When a friend rejects us, or when somebody we love walks out of our life, that loss and rejection can paralyze us and push us to despair. Then, we need to believe that the spirit of God will come to us, so that we can believe that life can begin again. When our health fails, and the pain and fear of illness press us down, we need to trust that God will come to us and lift us up so that we can continue.



Jesus tells his disciples that the gift of the spirit will be given to them. That is why he tells them that he will not leave them orphaned. Although he will no longer be physically present to them, the spirit will be sent to them, to fall down beside them in their exhaustion, in their brokenness, and to lift them up. Who then is the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is God's presence walking with us on the journey of life. The Spirit is God's strength always waiting to pick up our burdens when our strength is gone.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. May 15th - Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a

Tue. May. 16th - Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

Wed. May. 17th - Acts 17:15,22-18.1; John 16:12-15

Thurs. May. 18th - Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20

Fri. May 19th - Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17

Sat. May 20th - Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

Sun. May 21ST - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21



A 2nd Collection will be taken up this Weekend, at all the Masses, for the Pope's Pastoral Works.

KNIGHTLY NEWS

OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE SELLING FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY, AFTER ALL THE MASSES, FOR MOTHER'S DAY.



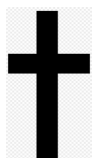
ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. May 17th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. May. 20th - 5 PM - J.Tuguinay, C & C Tang.

Sun. May 21st - 9AM - Isaiah, Jonah & Norah

Chao, S.Cheung. 11 AM - Elisa, Klyde & Kyle Tan, Aiden & Aron Babas, J.Cayabyab. 5 PM - L.Villawarayan, J.Plata, J.Paja. Joaquim & Martinna Cabuhayan.



IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of the following parishioners who died this week..

Mr. Tom Geronimo and Mrs. Rosalina Da Silva.

May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace!

FR. JOSEPH'S SILVER JUBILEE



Next Sunday, May 21st, Fr. Joseph will be celebrating his 25th Anniversary of Ordination. Please join us at our 11:00 am Mass, in thanking Fr. Joseph for his faithful and loving service to the Church. A reception will follow in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to attend! Let us keep Fr. Joseph in our prayers that God may continue to bless him abundantly, in his priestly ministry, as he continues to serve him faithfully.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SCHOOL NEWS

- **Yearbooks:** Last chance to order your year books. The deadline is this Monday, May 15th!
- **No School next Friday, May 19th.**
- **School Tours:** Our Gr. 7 Student Ambassadors will be available to provide tours of our school to prospective families. If you know of someone who might be interested in attending St. Jude School, I encourage you to tell them to sign up for a tour. Any interested family can email registrar@stjude.ca to schedule a tour.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS


Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil." 1 Peter 3:17

The old line says, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don't get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

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Permanent Diaconate Program
Now accepting applications

CONTACT DEACONS@RCAV.ORG

Dates with Destiny: The Jewish Roots of Pentecost

Come and learn about the history of God's people and the connection between the Old and New Testaments as it relates to Pentecost. This information talk is the last of three talks on *Dates with Destiny* by Fr. Ain Leetma. Attendance in previous talks not necessary. On Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vancouver. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit

This exhibit is the creation of Carlo Acutis, a Catholic Italian teenager who died in 2006 and was beatified in Assisi on October 10, 2020. Pope Francis referred to Carlo Acutis as a model of holiness in a digital age— he enjoyed computer gaming and programming, and he loved soccer and the Eucharist.

With this exhibition, the young Blessed Carlo's intention was to bring attention to the power of the Eucharist and to Jesus' real presence in It. All are welcome to this unforgettable and moving educational experience. Photographs will be on display alongside detailed descriptions of each Eucharistic miracle.

From Thursday, May 18, to Sunday, May 21, at Good Shepherd Parish in Surrey. Learn more and see the complete schedule at beholdvancouver.org/events

The "4n4n4" Young Adults Online Retreat

The "4n4n4" Retreat is an online introductory retreat for young adults to learn the practical fundamentals of Ignatian prayer, discernment and spirituality. The retreat runs for a period of four weeks. Each week, there will be a one-hour prayer period (with a topic assigned for each) and a meeting with a Retreat Director. The opening session is on Friday, June 16. Meeting dates are arranged between the director and retreatant. Cost is \$30. Bursaries available. **Registration deadline: May 19.** Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

Fifth Ordinandi Dinner

The Vocations and Seminarians Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver cordially invites you to the Fifth Ordinandi Dinner featuring Deacon Patrick Le and Deacon Medard Kamanzi. Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful on Wed., June 21 at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets are available for purchase at: secure.rcav.org/ordina...

• HAPPY •
Mother's Day