



# Bringing Home the Word

Pentecost Sunday (A)  
May 24, 2026

## Freed by the Spirit

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

**F**ear can be a most powerful imprisoning force. Like the apostles, who locked themselves behind closed doors after the resurrection for fear of the local leaders, there are times when our own fears lock us out of the future and into our past.

We find ourselves choosing not to be generous for fear that if we are, we will find ourselves empty-handed with no one to care for us because we've used up all our resources. And so, because of our fear, we lock ourselves into our own selfishness. At other times, we hesitate to be kind for fear that our

care will be misconstrued or, worse, will be taken advantage of and abused. And so, for fear of continual demands upon our kindness, we lock ourselves into indifference. At other times, we find ourselves too cautious to speak out in the face of injustice because of a misguided respect for "someone else's business" or because we are afraid anger or rejection will come down upon us. So, we lock ourselves into silence.

It is always the Spirit, however, who enables us to unlock those doors once locked by our fear. While that new power enables us to venture into a sometimes-shattering world, it does not promise we won't be shattered in the process. All that Jesus promised is that the Spirit would bring us peace. Such peace happens to us whenever we choose not to succumb to our fears. It is indeed a new creation taking place in us, even now. †

## Sunday Readings

### Acts 2:1-11

Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and.... Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire.

### 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

### John 20:19-23

[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."



*The Spirit  
unlocks the doors  
locked by our fear.*

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

At Pentecost, the apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God's "breath" unites our hearts and makes us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025



REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS  
**QUESTIONS**  
REFLECTION

- Has fear ever kept you from doing good?
- What do you wish you had done?



# We Are One

Paige Byrne Shortal

I heard a radio interview with researchers who study the language-learning abilities of infants. Their research suggests that babies are born ready, or “wired,” to learn any language. We gradually UN-learn our ability to hear languages foreign to our environment and retain only the ability to hear the language(s) of our family. It’s fascinating to realize that before this UN-learning occurs, no language is foreign to a newborn baby.

Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that the gathering in Jerusalem included “devout Jews from every nation under heaven.” It was like an ancient, Jewish United Nations where, without benefit of interpreters or technology, they understood each other.

No language was foreign in the infant Church, but the Church grew up, and somehow we UN-learned too much. There have always been disagreements, but today it seems there is no forum for coming together or even a desire to do so. Within our Church, even within our own parishes, there is often bitter discord. We falsely label each other as “liberals” or

“conservatives,” and all dialogue stops. Some are suspicious of all authority. Others claim authority for what is only opinion.

There is division among the churches. We cannot worship together. We cannot understand each other. These divisions among Christians are unhealed wounds of the Body of Christ.

One of the languages we have not completely UN-learned is the language of silence. Those who are dedicated to healing the wounds of division might start with sitting in gentle silence before God. If you’ve ever experienced a silent retreat, you know that the bond created with your fellow retreatants goes beyond what could have been accomplished with idle conversation or theological discourse. In the language of silence, God speaks and tells us we are one. †

**One language we have not un-learned is silence.**

From *Our Parish Community* bulletin, May 15, 2005, Liguori Publications

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Ten Peak Moments of Church History” by Alfred McBride, OPraem

Before he left them, Jesus assured his followers that he wasn’t simply tossing their future to the four winds. Rather, his community would be guided by a special wind—the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is active through the whole sweep of Church history. We can assume its guidance all the more intensely at those turning points we call “peak moments.” At the Last Supper, Jesus said, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17).

That promise was fulfilled at Pentecost. Now all believers have access to the Father, through Christ in the one Spirit.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



So that we may know what is good, speak about the good, and do what is good, we pray, come, Holy Spirit! Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 25–30

**Monday**, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church: Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn 19:25–34

**Tuesday**, St. Philip Neri: 1 Pt 1:10–16 / Mk 10:28–31

**Wednesday**, Weekday: 1 Pt 1:18–25 / Mk 10:32–45

**Thursday**, Weekday: 1 Pt 2:2–5, 9–12 / Mk 10:46–52

**Friday**, Weekday: 1 Pt 4:7–13 / Mk 11:11–26

**Saturday**, Weekday: Jude 17, 20b–25 / Mk 11:27–33



Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted.

© 2026 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, revised edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).