Notes from Deacon Gary

Brothers and Sisters,

Often, I come across articles that are truly worth passing on. This article by Dianne Bergant, (America: May 9, 2005) is one of those.

“So many stories in the Bible recount the wondrous working of God. In some of them, the events are reported in such unremarkable ways that one wonders whether or not anything exceptional really happened. An example of this might be God’s revelation to the prophet Elijah in “a tiny whispering voice” (1 Kgs 19:12) or Jesus’ changing the bread and wine into his body and blood (Mk 14:22-24). Other stories are replete with astonishing natural phenomena, like the thunder, lightning and smoke that accompanied the revelation of God at Sinai (Ex 19:16-19), or Jesus’ transfiguration on the mountain with Elijah and Moses (Lk 9:28-36). The Pentecost event belongs to this second group.

The first reading for this feast describes an extraordinary event. There is a great noise, like that produced by a hurricane. Then tongues of fire appear over the heads of the followers of Jesus. The noise and the fire are what were heard and seen, but what really happened? The reading says that “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” But what does that mean? We are told that the disciples were then able to speak in a way that those present from all over the world could

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understand them in their own native language. But does this answer satisfy our questioning?

The reading tells us what happened. The disciples announced the good news of salvation “as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” We, children of the scientific age, are interested in the mechanics of the event. Did it really happen as described? Was there an actual noise? Genuine tongues of fire? And how could they speak in one language and be understood in another? None of these questions is as important as the one that is often omitted: What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Both the Gospel and the reading from Corinthians provide us with examples of this mysterious phenomenon. Put simply, it means that the followers of Jesus were given the power promised by Jesus to further the reign of God that he inaugurated. The Gospel tells us that the disciples received the Spirit so that they would be able to exercise judgment within the community. “Forgiving and holding back forgiveness of sin” is a way of expressing complete jurisdiction. It is a way of suggesting totality, like flesh and blood, or east and west, or left and right. Having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples are given authority within the community.

The second reading, a passage from Paul, offers a more extensive portrait of what it meant to be filled with the Spirit. First, it was the power of the Spirit that enabled believers publicly to acknowledge their religious allegiance: “Jesus is Lord!” This was not only a religious profession; it was also a political proclamation. It meant: I choose Jesus, not the emperor. How many of us are able to stand up for religious values in the face of social or political opposition? The power of the Spirit enables believers to do so.

Paul goes on to speak of the gift (chárisma) that each one has been given as a manifestation of the Spirit. In this passage he does not explicitly identify these gifts, for his focus seems to be on the unity that is possible in such diversity. This is clear from his reference to the many parts making up one body. We have different gifts, different forms of service and different workings or expressions of power. But these are all manifestations of the same Spirit, given to us for the benefit of the entire body.

So what happened on that first Pentecost, and what does it all mean for us today? The Spirit of God took hold of the first disciples with a force like a mighty wind, and they were set on fire with zeal for the reign of God. As baptized and confirmed Christians, we too have been seized by that same Spirit; we too have been given gifts meant for the service of others.

Pentecost is not simply the “birthday of the church.” It is more than that. It is the feast that calls us out from behind the locked doors where, like the disciples in the Gospel reading, we may be hiding for fear of others. It is the feast that reminds us that we are indeed people filled with the Spirit, people with gifts that the world needs so desperately: wisdom for a world searching for meaning, knowledge for a world seeking insight, healing for a world torn apart by violence, prophecy for a world in need of direction, discernment of spirits for a world confronted by competing forces.

The power of the Spirit worked wonders in and through the lives of the first disciples. The power of the Spirit has worked wonders in and through the lives of believers down through the ages. What wonders will the Spirit work in and through us today? Don’t you wonder what will really happen?”

Deacon Gary Wortham
Director of Liturgy
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MASS INTENTIONS</th>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>8:00 AM Giovanni Zampierin Yvonne Skyrus Loretta Nnoli</td>
<td>9:00 AM Knights of Columbus Donut Sunday Baptism Preparation Class 1 Hall Rms 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Rectory</td>
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<td>MON</td>
<td>8:30 AM Antonio Sanguyu</td>
<td>12:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal Room 8 Church</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>8:30 AM Jenny Kim (L)</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>WED</td>
<td>8:30 AM Florencia Alegria</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
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<td>THU</td>
<td>8:30 AM Mike Elliott</td>
<td>8:45 AM Al-Anon Reconciliation Room 8 Church</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>8:30 AM Mark Lemm and Michele O’Neill (L)</td>
<td>12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration RCIA Chapel</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration RCIA Chapel</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Employment Connections Chapel Room B Church</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>8:30 AM Bridie Corcoron Raymond Northam</td>
<td>12:10 PM Melicio Torres Chapel</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Consuelo Mesina Chapel Room B Church</td>
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<td>Emman Cartago (L) Chapel &amp; Room A</td>
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<td>6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group Chapel Room A Church</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal Chapel &amp; Room A Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>12:10 PM Antonio Correia</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Bi-Monthly Grief Support Room A Church</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>9:00 AM Bob Sarocco Randy Csongor Claudio Hashigute Palomeque Genoveva F. Cornelio</td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA Inquiry Room A</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA Inquiry Room A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>11:00 AM Baptism Rite of Welcome Room A Church</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>12:15 PM Baptism Preparation Class 2 Room A &amp; B Church</td>
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Scripture Readings
June 11
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

Requests for Mass Intentions
A wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones is to offer a Mass intention. A requestor may reserve at most 5 Masses at a time, once a month and not on consecutive days/weeks for the same intention. The July - December Mass Intention Calendars will open for reservations on June 26 - 30. Please refer below for hours:

St. Augustine Rectory Conference Room
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Monday – Friday 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton Office
Monday – Friday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday – Thursday 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Employment Connections
Our focus is on where you as an individual are in your job search today. We address those issues you need direction on today and offer job search guidance, resource information, networking, inspiration and support in a safe environment. We welcome everyone in need of help with their job search to join us. Meetings are held on the 1st Monday each month at 7:00 PM in Room B at St Elizabeth Seton Church. Join our Linkedin Group: Employment Connection CCOP or contact Mike Machi at (925) 462-9765.

1st Wednesdays at Main Street
The Catholic Community of Pleasanton has a booth at downtown Pleasanton’s First Wednesdays Summer Street Fairs. Please visit our booth between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM the months of June, July and August! The Teen Choir performs a few songs and our Confirmation teens provide face painting for the kids. We talk to people about our Church and our faith. It’s a non-threatening way to begin sharing our faith! Mark your calendars to visit the CCOP booth (near Dean’s Cafe on Main Street).

Facility Scheduling
The Facility Scheduling packets have been e-mailed to all Ministry Coordinators. If you did not receive yours, please contact Michael Harmon, Director of Communication at mharmon@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Safe Environment Training
The Diocese of Oakland announces our affiliation with VIRTUS, Protecting God’s Children. The links for registration are on the Safe Environment Page of the Diocese Website. It is available online in Spanish and English. Training is mandatory for all who minister and must be done first before starting work or volunteering and then every 3 years thereafter. To register and take the online course go to www.virtusonline.org. Cost paid by parish.

Fingerprinting Vendor:
AAA Live Scan
1576 2nd Street, Suite E
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 493-7926
Aaalivescanlivermore.com

Daily Rosary
St. Augustine Church
Monday through Saturday at 8:00 AM

20th Ordination Anniversary
You are invited to celebrate Fr. Geoffrey Baraan’s 20th Ordination Anniversary on June 17, 10:00 AM at St. Joseph Church, Pinole, CA. Fr. Geoffrey’s first assignment was here at CCOP.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

| Lorraine Hanna | Elizabeth Gurge |
| Sebastia | Pamela de la Cruz |
| Laura Schibler | Robert Benavidez |
| Balbino Anzano | Rosendo Evangelista |
| Conchita Anzano | John Francis Hansen |
| Purification del Rosario | Teresa Ann Bartolo |
| Teresa Ann Bartolo | Judith Merk |
| Michael Parks | Mary Jane Hutter |
| Richard John Rutledge | |

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Join The Flock
We use Flocknote to send out updates and information about CCOP. Joining is easy from your mobile phone or computer! Text “Join CCOP” to 84576 or follow the link on the homepage of our website. Join now!

Quo Vadis Camp for Young Men
July 9 - 12
Diocese of Oakland Youth Retreat Center
1977 Reliez Valley Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
Young Men ages 13 - 18 are invited to join a three-day camp to assist young men in discerning their vocation as they grow in relationship with Christ. Activities include fun, games, music, Mass, prayer and talks. Registration is $50 — space is limited.

For more information, contact Cielo Branco at (510) 267-8356 or CBranco@oakdiocese.org.

Giving Made Easy (GME)
Make your Arise & Build, Sunday and Special offerings via Credit Card or Checking Account.

1. Go to the CCOP website.
2. Click on Giving/Giving Made Easy.
3. Click on “Enroll and Update Account” and set up your account.

If your credit card changes, please remember to update your account information using the same login. Thank you,

Sunday Contributions
On your check for your Sunday collection, please always indicate on the Memo area where to apply the contribution (1st Collection, Building Fund, Catholic Voice, etc.) and write the amount on the front of the envelope. This minimizes posting to the wrong account resulting in inaccurate statements and tax letters.

Grief Workshop
St. Elizabeth Seton Church
2nd and 4th Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM
June 8 and 22
July 13 and 27
August 10 and 24
The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Each person’s grief journey has its own path and its own timeline. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are Stepping Stones that are part of each grief journey.

Join us bi-monthly and let us accompany you on your healing journey. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

For more information, call Eleanor Flatley at (925) 846-8708.

Adult Confirmation
Adults interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425, for more information.

RCIA: Come and See
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process that adults complete to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For information, call Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425 or mgray@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Virginia Olitoquit
Sik Galvez
Violeta Aragon
Rene Omalde
Leonard Stout
Nancy Tidwell
Arthur Pastor
Barbara Fritz
Delfin De Castro
Camille Chabot
Genevieve Giordano
Mary Domenichini
Eleanor Collins
Edward Collins
Sambo Sok
Christine Grabowski
Roy Haley
Maria Goetz
Kathy Johnson
Paul Miller
Under the direction of the Emmy-winning Terrance Kelly, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir brings together over fifty-five singers and four instrumentalists who embody a community of diverse races, cultures, and faiths. Their mission is to inspire joy and unity among all people through black gospel and spiritual music.

WHERE: St. Augustine Church
3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton
DATE: Saturday, June 17
TIME: 8:00 p.m.