

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating Pentecost



May 2013

What's Inside...

Feature Article:

You Will Receive
Power p2

The Charismatic
Renewal p6

SmartLoving:

Charisms of
Marriage p16

Seasonal Notes:

Fire Activities p17

Pentecost Sweet
Treats p18

Holy Spirit Novena
p18



May 2013

This Month...



- We 1 St Joseph the Worker
- Su 5 **Easter 6**
Peace
- Fr 10 St. Damien of Molokai
- Su 12 **The Ascension**
Be my Witnesses
Mother's Day
- Mo 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- Su 19 **Pentecost**
Send Your Spirit
- Fr 24 Mary, Help of Christians
- Su 26 **Holy Trinity**
- Th 30 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
St Joan of Arc
- Fr 31 The Visitation

You will receive power...

The scene: Jesus has been crucified and his body mysteriously goes missing from the tomb. Followers report encounters with the risen Jesus but it's now ten days since the last one. On that occasion, the disciples saw Jesus ascend into heaven after instructing them to wait in Jerusalem where they would receive 'power from the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 1:8). They are bewildered and uncertain about what to do.



Acts 2:1-42

The apostles were together when a rush of a violent wind filled the entire house. Tongues of fire appeared among them and rested on each one. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. Peter said to the people outside, “Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the Holy Spirit”. Many were baptized and that day about three thousand people were added to the church.



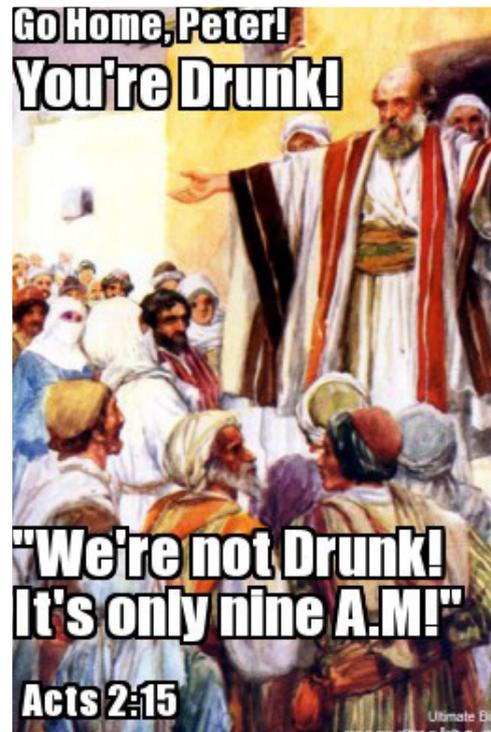
The Power of the Holy Spirit

Wow! When Jesus promises something, we can be certain that he will deliver! The scriptures tell us that from that time on, the disciples went out boldly to distant parts of the earth, preaching and baptising so that the numbers of followers multiplied. In fact, history tells us, that Christianity spread so quickly, it was nervously observed by the highest levels of authority in Rome.¹

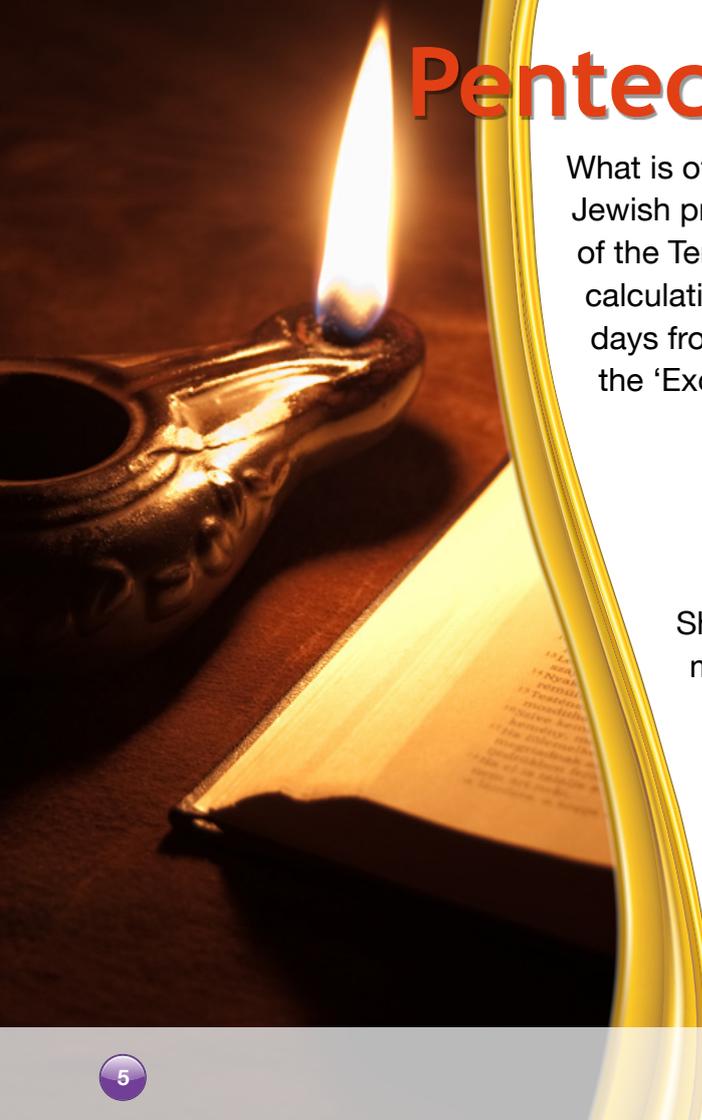
Profile: Fr Ranrieo Cantalamessa O.F.M

"We tend to overlook Peter's opening words to the crowd that first Pentecost morning, to our own peril. His denial of drunkenness in the wake of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit should stop us in our tracks. What was going on here?"

Fr Cantalamessa is the official preacher to the Vatican Household, appointed by John Paul II in 1980. He is openly Charismatic and has written an excellent book, *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit* that walks the reader through scripture and the Church Fathers, explores the intoxicating infilling of the Spirit through the Sacraments.



¹ Pliny the Younger, a Roman Governor writing to Emperor Trajan concerning Christians, c. 110 AD.: [Georgetown Texts](#)

A lit menorah (candlestick) is shown on the left side of the page, with a flame. Below it, an open book is visible, partially obscured by a large, glowing yellow ribbon that curves across the page. The background is dark, making the light from the candle and the book stand out.

Pentecost: Jewish Roots

What is often overlooked in the Christian story of Pentecost is its Jewish precursor, Shavuot. This festival commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments by God to Moses at Mount Sinai. Using calculations based on biblical texts, this was determined to be fifty days from Passover, the day that the Israelites' fled from Egypt in the 'Exodus'.

Thus the period between Passover and Shavuot was fifty days and was also known as the 'Festival of Weeks'. Christians later adopted the Greek word for fiftieth day, 'Pentecost,' for the feast.

Shavuot, along with Passover and Sukkoth, was one of three major feasts in the Jewish calendar which was observed by fervent Jews through pilgrimage to the holy city, Jerusalem. As devout Jews, the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Tradition holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was present, though it is not clear from the scriptures if other women were also in attendance.

Read more: [Light of Torah, Pentecost Resource, www.lightoftorah.net](http://www.lightoftorah.net)

The Charismatic Renewal

The Charismatic Renewal refers to a grassroots movement of Christians from all denominations energised by a deep appreciation and connection with the Holy Spirit. Its roots can be traced to the late 19th century, when Bl. Elena Guerra founded the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Italy which encouraged a devotion to the Holy Spirit. A renewed interest in the Holy Spirit among a number of groups grew across the Christian denominations and in 1963, Pope John XXIII inaugurated Vatican II with a prayer for a 'new Pentecost'.

The movement gained momentum in 1967, when a group of students at Duquesne in the USA met for a retreat and experienced a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit which quickly spread from college campuses to parishes across America and internationally. Within a few short years, conferences drawing tens of thousands of people were being held and communities were being formed across the world.



A NEW PENTECOST
THE CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Further Reading

- **ETWN Experts answer on the Charismatic Renewal**
- **Holy Spirit Interactive**
- **Missionaries of God's Love**

Movement of the Spirit

This unique movement has no individual founder, no real structure and numerous communities, prayer movements and groups.

They are all bound by the common experience of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the charisms to live the universal call to holiness and build up the life of the Church.

In 1993, the Vatican officially recognised the **International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services**. Based in Rome, it organises and communicates with the various parts of the Charismatic Renewal and the Vatican.



What is a Charism?

“Charism” is the Greek word used in the New Testament for “favor” or “gift.” Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to give them the power to be a channel of God’s goodness. All charisms ought to be exercised in the service of God¹. All Baptised people are given charisms. According to Catholic teaching, it is the faith of the Church that every baptised person possesses one or more of the charisms².

There are gifts of the Holy Spirit that we are given to keep and gifts we are to give away. The traditional “seven gifts of the Holy Spirit” and the “fruits” of the Spirit are gifts given to us to keep and are part of our inner transformation as Christians.

Charisms, on the other hand, are given to us to give away, and are one of the ways God continues to enter the world through our cooperation. They always benefit other people.

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2003

² *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 951



What are the Charisms?

Since the beginning of Christianity, there have been a collection of charisms to empower people to preach, teach and to live the Christian life. Whilst graces are given to individuals and are focused on the interior holiness, charisms are a gift for a particular purpose that builds up the Church. They are wonderfully rich gifts of apostolic vitality, however, they must be carefully discerned in prayer to ensure that they are indeed of the Holy Spirit. St Paul identifies the following charisms (1 Cor12, Rom 12):



- Service
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment of Spirits
- Speaking in Tongues
- Understanding Tongues
- Helping
- Administration
- Teaching
- Pastoring
- Ministry
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy

Source: HolySpiritInteractive.net

Discerning Charisms

God calls each of us to a work of love that will fill our lives with purpose and joy. Discerning our charisms can help us discover that call, simplify our life and avoid burnout. When we work within our charisms, we feel energized as God has gifted us to make us more effective, and it becomes easier to say, “no” when people ask us for things that we don’t really have to give.

Understanding our charisms also has the benefit of freeing us from the need to compare ourselves to others because we recognize that our giftedness and calling are different from theirs. It can also make a big difference in family life as we come to understand and cherish our spouse’s gifts and nurture the emerging gifts of our children.



The New Evangelisation



The Church calls all Catholics to participate in a new evangelization (the sharing of Christ's love with others, especially our fellow Catholics), and our charisms empower us to play an essential role.

Unlike natural talents which are often 'inherited' from our parents, charisms are given to us by the Holy Spirit, whom we received through Baptism and Confirmation.

Charisms are supernaturally empowering. In other words, they enable us to have an effectiveness that surpasses our natural, human abilities. For example, if a doctor possesses a charism of healing, he may well find that his patients get well in extraordinary ways, either recovering more quickly than would be expected naturally, or getting well when natural healing would not have occurred at all. A naturally gifted teacher might also have a charism of teaching which empowers her to teach about God's love with exceptional effectiveness.

Adapted from Called and Gifted program, [Catherine of Siena Institute](#)
Pope John Paul II speaks on charisms



Mother's Day

Mary & the Holy Spirit

As we celebrate the gift of motherhood, let us remember the mother of Jesus, who was not only present at the Descent of the Holy Spirit, but so perfectly lived in communion with God, that the Holy Spirit was able to conceive within her, the Son of God. She is said to have a mystical spousal relationship with the Holy Spirit. She is also our spiritual mother and one of the fruits of the Charismatic Renewal is a renewed devotion to Mary and the Rosary.

Check out CathFamily's [Mother's Day Prayer Card](#)

Fire...

...bring your family together

There is a primal comfort that comes with fire and candlelight. There is also something truly mesmerising about fire, the flickering flames form intricate, beautiful shapes that are gone as quickly as they come. The crackling sound of good, dry firewood and the calming heat radiating from the fire provides light and warmth, a gathering point and a cooking aid.

Is it any wonder the Holy Spirit is manifested as fire?

It's always a good time for your family to discover the joys of fire, whether it's curled up with a blanket in candlelight and CathFamily's Chili Hot Chocolates or relaxing outside around a fire pit. Check out our tips for bringing the fire of the Spirit to your family gatherings.



CathFamily's Top Fire Tips...

- Purchase a brazier or fire pit from your local hardware store or build your own with cement blocks or bricks. Create a safe area where you can sit around your fire soaking up the atmosphere and conversation.
- Tight for space or renting? Repurpose an old steel bucket, cooking pot or portable coal/wood BBQ – make sure your fire can get sufficient oxygen by drilling a few holes at the base.
- No backyard for a fire pit? Take your fire indoors or to the table with a fireproof bowl filled with sand soaked in methylated spirits (metho fires burn much cooler and don't make smoke). Alternatively, mass together a number of candles of different sizes and shapes for a blaze on a budget.

For some conversation starters see ['Table Talk'](#)



Charisms of Marriage

Francine & Byron Pirola

Sarah and Henry are passionately committed to growing deeper in intimacy. Following prostrate surgery that left Henry impotent, they persisted in seeking new ways to express their unity. Their joyfulness is contagious.

Like every baptized person, married people are gifted by the Holy Spirit with charisms suited to their individual calling as Christians. However there are also marital charisms that are part of the vocation of Matrimony and which empower couples to bring God's love to others in a unique way, specifically as a couple. Many of us don't activate these amazing gifts of the Spirit, relying instead on our own will and natural talents to contribute to the community. However, our human resources, while vast, are necessarily limited.



Michelle and Mark have four children. Their home is an open door for the parish youth who are often found at the family table talking to Michelle and Mark about important life decisions.

Like all gifts of the Spirit, the charisms of marriage need to be consciously activated and cultivated in order for them to reach their full potential. Charisms are not for individual holiness, but for the proclamation of the Gospel. Thinking about the following charisms, how do you see your marriage proclaiming the love of Christ?

Charism	In the Domestic Church (the Family)
Unity	The gift of being one in mind, heart and body
Procreation	The gift of welcoming new life
Reconciliation	The gift of restoring relationship
Hospitality	The gift of welcome and belonging
Nurture	The gift of care and education
Fidelity	The gift of faithful dedication
Generosity	The gift of sharing without reserve
Mercy	The gift of forgiveness
Friendship	The gift of companionship and encouragement

John and Barbara are the focal point of their parish community, welcoming people each Sunday by name and serving refreshments afterwards. They are often the first ones people call when there is a pastoral crisis.

Fiery Pentecost Sweets

Celebrate Pentecost in seasonal deliciousness with CathFamily's Pineapple Fire Fondue and our decadent Chilli Hot Chocolates.

Holy Spirit Novena

Join in the spirit of the Apostles as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit after the Ascension. This simple Novena is based on the classic prayer, *Veni Sancte Spiritus* and is the oldest novena tradition in the Church. Beginning on the Friday of the 6th Week of Easter, it finishes on Pentecost.



