

**Pentecost Sunday  
June 8-9, 2019**

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## **Living Catholic in the 808: Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church**

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.  
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Our Lady of Peace**

Happy Birthday! Today has been called by many the birthday of the Church. Once the disciples received the promised gift of the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit, they were able to go from the "womb" of that upper room into the world. Every day, and especially at Pentecost, God wants to give each of us a new birth, a Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We need God's Holy Spirit to be truly alive in Christ. We need the Holy Spirit to give purpose, peace, and power to our lives.

The Holy Spirit gives purpose to our lives. Often, we don't live "on purpose". We merely react to things around us and move in many different directions, some of which are away from God. In the midst of many confusing yearnings and invitations, it is difficult to know how to act and what to choose. The Holy Spirit offers us the gift of wisdom and insight so that we might begin to know God more clearly and sense his loving will for our lives. Whether we are deciding about our life's work or about what the work of today will be, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives peace to our lives. Often, we feel as if all is in turmoil. We feel inner conflict as we try to reconcile conflicting emotions and seek healing from past hurts. We are not at peace with God because we have waged war against an awareness of God's presence in our lives. We are not at peace with one another because we have chosen conflict and division instead of peace and unity. It seems easier to settle for separation and superficiality instead of working toward a deeper oneness. The Holy Spirit of love offers us the possibility of finding peace within ourselves and with one another. It is like soothing oil that medicates our hurts and allows us to more smoothly relate to one another.

The Holy Spirit gives power to our lives. Often, we know what is right and have the desire to do good. But, we feel helpless in the midst of the enormity of the task of living a Christian life in a world that is often anti-Christian. We realize that just knowing the commandments is not enough. We recognize that just exercising our will power is not sufficient. We need to surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit so that God can be the fuel that powers the engine of our lives. The "high octane" of God's grace is what we need to run the race and to win the prize of heaven. Come Holy Spirit! We need your purpose, peace and power in our lives.