

Pentecost 2009

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Are we having fun yet? Fun may not be something you ordinarily associate with coming to Church. Church is supposed to be serious. What could possibly be fun in a service where at the center of what we celebrate is the death of Jesus on the Cross. Yes, of course there is the resurrection too and that is joyful, but fun? No.

But let me ask: what is the experience of having fun? What's fun for you? What do you do just for fun? How many times a day do you say to someone: Have fun!

Usually a fun time is something out of the ordinary routine of the day. It's not about what we have to accomplish. Fun is an experience that allows us to forget ourselves, be absorbed in the moment without cares and concerns for what tomorrow will bring. It's usually, but not always a time spent with friends, loved ones. It is an experience that is truly a gift. You just can't create fun, can you. You can create the possibility of having fun but you can't make someone have fun. Fun is spontaneous, free, wonderful like a kite flying high above, spinning and twirling, diving and soaring in the wind. Or a bouquet of balloons ready to rise into the skies or burst like a bubble with a pop!

I know they are having fun at the Family Mass this morning because Fr JA brought in pinwheels and a great big kite to illustrate that we may be able to make a pinwheel whirl with our breath but as hard as we might try with all our breath combined we wouldn't be able to get a kite in the air. We need the wind with its force and drive and its currents to make the kite fly high and spin and twirl, dive and soar...like God's spirit on Pentecost. Like the spirit flowing free from the love of Jesus for his disciples, for us too, now.

Are we having fun yet? Or are we still hiding behind the locked doors of our hearts for fear. Fun and fear do not go hand in hand. How can we have fun when we are afraid? How can we experience the gift of the spirit of God when we are too afraid to trust the Spirit is working in us. The first disciples were blown away and set on fire by the Holy Spirit. They were speaking in a way that they never had before. In a moment they were "berlitzed" with one single language that unified all those who heard them. And the word

that everybody heard was “Jesus is Lord, Jesus, the crucified is now the Risen. God has raised Jesus and we are witnesses of this.”

Are we ever “blown away and set on fire with passion for the good news?” Do our words proclaim freedom from fear because we are so completely, unconditionally loved by God? Do our actions speak even louder than those words as signs of peace, reconciliation, healing, forgiveness, compassion and freedom from unfair judgment of others? With the gifts of the Spirit, with Pentecost comes the responsibility to work for unity and Christ’s peace for all.

So on this Pentecost day, go fly a kite! And when you see the kite soaring, whirling, diving, with the wind blowing freely (if you can find a wind) imagine yourself that free. But know the hand that holds on to you is the Hand of God, and the string that connects you is the love of Jesus for you. But on this Pentecost day, Have Fun!