

COVID CATECHISM PROJECT – 8TH AND 9TH GRADES
(May 18 to June 4, 2020)

Dear Students,

The Church is celebrating the **Feast of the Pentecost** on Sunday, 31st May. Since we are in lockdown, and there is no hope that we will be having our regular Sunday Mass on that day, but available on the website of our parish through livestreaming www.kalenaagraharachurch.org , I would like to provide you some information on Pentecost, with a request that you read it, understand it, and answer a few questions found at the end. Your answers sheet should reach me via **WhatsApp** by June 4, 2020.

What is the Feast of Pentecost?

The Feast of Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and Mother Mary when they were gathered in prayer in the upper room. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told the apostles that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts of the Apostles 1:5 says that He gave them this order: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* So together with Mary, they *“devoted themselves with one accord to prayer (Acts.1:14).* And sure enough, the Holy Spirit came with wind and fire and making them to possess with a new boldness to preach the gospel.

The Book of Acts of the Apostles records at least seven times (7) that the apostles were “filled” with the Spirit (Acts. 2:4; 4:8; 31; 6:8; 7:55; 13:9; 52). And this does not count all the other times that is not recorded in the Bible. After the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, they performed many miracles and wonders.

In short, Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit of God came down to dwell in the followers of Jesus. This is the day that the Church of God was born. After the day of Pentecost, the apostles, who were timid and illiterate, became bold and went publicly preaching the good news and history changed. The same is true for all of us. Although we have received the Holy Spirit in Baptism, we continually need more gifts of the Holy Spirit to follow the Lord and proclaim the good news. Jesus knew that we would need the Holy Spirit, so even long before his Ascension, he encouraged his disciples to pray for the gift. *“If you know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will the Father of heaven give the Holy Spirit?” (Luke.11:13).* John’s Gospel assures us that God *“does not ration his gift of the Spirit” (3:34).*

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

The Holy Spirit vivifies. He animates us. He breathes life into us. He is like the soul to the body. There is not a little in us that is dead, decadent and defunct. The Holy Spirit

brings us to life. The Holy Spirit fortifies; he fills us with fortitude; he makes us bold and brave, fearless and free as he did to the apostles. Today, let us follow the apostles' example and believe in God's promise of the Spirit and pray for it. "Holy Spirit, make your home in my heart, today and every day". Let's pray daily to the Holy Spirit.

ACTIVITIES

I. Read the Bible passages mentioned in the above text.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the story of Pentecost?
2. How many days after Jesus ascended into Heaven did the disciples celebrate Pentecost?
3. While everyone was gathered together in the room, what sound was heard all around them?
4. What happened to the disciples when the Holy Spirit entered them?
5. Which one of Jesus' disciples took the opportunity to stand up and speak to the crowd of people?
6. Who did Peter describe in Acts.2:25 as sitting at the right hand of God?

III. Art work

Use your imagination of the scene at the upper room where the disciples gathered, picture the awe and surprise, fear and happiness at receiving the Holy Spirit. Put all your thoughts in color on a chart drawing a picture depicting the disciples and tongues of fire.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK VIA WhatsApp (AS IT IS EASIER TO UPLOAD ON THE WEBSITE) BY **JUNE 4, 2020** to Amy Saldanha, Catechism Coordinator, MOB: 9480620770.

THE BEST TWO (2) ART WORKS WILL BE AWARDED AND THEIR WORKS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE **iCATHOLIC BULLETIN OF OUR PARISH.**