

It is promising that on this day when we celebrate again the gift of the Holy Spirit, that churches around the world usually preach the message to their folks locked away behind religious closed doors....NOT THIS TIME.

For the first time in my priesthood, this Godly Gift of the Spirit is arriving in your kitchen or living room or study or bedroom.

We are reminded that the very BREATH OF GOD has sealed us, completed us, and connected us to the divine spark of creative love. The Holy Spirit is not called THE SUSTAINER and SANCTIFIER WITHOUT CAUSE.

The story of Acts inaugurates great stories of going out: Great stories in our biblical history of evangelism.

-In Acts 2 the apostles go out and 3,000 discover the Gospel.

-In Acts 22 An-na-knee-as helps Paul with his conversion by God - by going out to find Paul.

-In Acts 13 the Proconsul in Se-leu-ci-a has the Gospel confirmed by Paul and Barnabas and is transformed by the Good News; as are hundreds of gentiles soon after.

-Priscilla and Aquila explain the Good News of God to Apollos and he comes to Christ in chapter 18 of Acts.

Not one, not one of these, happens in a religious setting or behind the closed doors of a church. The witness of the Holy Spirit is that the apostles are sent out and in being sent out come into contact with others and through their conversations and witness people are moved to be baptized because they desire to participate in the Good News of God through Jesus Christ.

Such evangelism happened in a time when Christians were persecuted and martyred. How were they sustained?

You and I can tell stories about the ways of love that have touched and helped others during this health emergency. The stories are countless and each represents and witnesses to the divine spark freely given to us.

Each connection and relationship that spreads around the ways of love is an act of Holy Spirit working through you.

"Whether in the company of Jesus or, in his absence, in the company of the Spirit, what ultimately matters is recognizing God's action and becoming part of it. All else is subordinate to that."

"Jesus is not left behind that we might soar into spiritual fantasy and relish the prospects of more magic and more religion. John promises no such flights and is silent about future miracles."

The task of the disciples and disciples after them is to bear fruit, to let the seed sown in death rise to new life. What matters is life and love.

["First Thoughts on Year B Gospel Passages in the Lectionary,"](#) Pentecost, William Loader, Murdoch University, Uniting Church in Australia.

LET US PRAY

O God of the covenant, you revealed yourself on the holy mountain in fire and on Pentecost in the flame of the Holy Spirit, Let your mighty fire burn away our pride, consume our hatreds, annihilate the armaments of injustice and death, and kindle instead, within the whole human family, the welcome fire of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.