

## **Pentecost June 3-4, 2017 “A” Cycle**

**Physicists define energy as the ability to do work, to move and to power things. Kinetic energy is energy being utilized; potential energy is latent but available when needed. Finding sources of physical energy which are safe and economical is a continuing challenge for scientists and engineers in our modern society, which is very dependent upon them. We all realize this when we heat and cool our homes and fuel our cars.**

**In a similar way, there is also spiritual energy. It is the ability, given by God, to move closer to him and to do his work. Traditionally, this spiritual energy has been called “grace.” The Divine Person of the Holy Trinity, who dispenses grace, is the Holy Spirit.**

**Today, on Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit’s descent upon the apostles, to energize them to continue the ministry of Jesus. As he was completing his earthly ministry, Jesus promised to send to his disciples the Spirit and his many empowering gifts. This was the blessed and fruitful outcome of his triumphant resurrection.**

**The Holy Spirit galvanized the apostles and disciples, transforming them from timid and unsure followers of Jesus into his brave and daring witnesses. Many of them suffered as Jesus did, enduring persecution, torture, and even death to fulfill what Jesus commanded them.**

**Although the Holy Spirit is not material, the Scriptures tell us that he came to the disciples of Jesus as a strong wind, and as a flaming tongue of fire, both of which connote energy. The word “spirit” comes from the Hebrew and Greek word for wind or breath, and, by extension, life. The Holy Spirit, which Jesus sent, therefore, breathes forth new life and energy upon his disciples.**

**This same Holy Spirit is the one we received when we were baptized and confirmed. His gifts of spiritual life and energy are within us, within our spirits. His traditional gifts of wisdom, counsel, piety, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, and reverence are released when we call upon him. These are gifts not only for our benefit but for the good of all.**

**May we resolve, then, to turn this potential spiritual energy into kinetic or active spiritual energy. We do this by putting our faith into practice. We do this by regular worship and private prayer, by receiving the sacraments, by keeping the commandments, and by being kind and good and forgiving to one another.**

**The spiritual people we admire such as the saints, like Pope John Paul 2, Teresa of Calcutta, Pope Francis are those who have allowed the Holy Spirit to empower and energize them.**

**Physicists are rightly concerned about the challenges of making available physical energy. On the other hand, our faith in Jesus reassures us that there is no spiritual energy shortage. The Holy Spirit is readily available and eager to pour out his grace to all of us.**

**We pray that we may welcome the Holy Spirit to re-ignite the fire and fan the life-wind of his presence in us, so that we may be renewed and in-turn renew the face of the earth.**