

The Promise of the Father - Acts 1:4

by Deacon Reuben D'Sa

A promise made by God can be trusted, and the Bible is full of promises which are fulfilled in God's time. God promised Abraham that he would have descendants like the stars! God told Moses that he would lead his people to the promised land. In the New Testament, after his resurrection, Jesus told the apostles to "go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). In all these examples, we see three things before the promises could be fulfilled—patience, obedience and faith.

In Acts 1:14, we read that, before the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, they got ready: "in one accord, the apostles devoted themselves to prayer." While Jesus taught them that the Holy Spirit was going to be their helper, he didn't provide them with many details. He didn't spend much time talking about the manifestations of the Spirit. Jesus did not want to distract them by these expressions of the Spirit, He wanted them to *experience Him!* So, with very little understanding on the how, the disciples had to be patient.

They obediently went to Jerusalem, despite the danger. And they prayed in faith, without understanding what was going to happen. The promise also appears in Lk 24:49, "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power from on high.**" The power mentioned here comes from the Greek word 'dunamis', from which we derive the English word dynamite. It is the same word St. Paul uses in 2 Timothy 1:7, when he writes, "for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power (dunamis) and love and self-control."

How does this promise apply to us? We have already received the dunamis of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and sealed at Confirmation. We must wait prayerfully for Pentecost—to prepare to receive a new infilling, to fan into flame the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have received. We should be obedient and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, at a deeper level. To *experience Him!* Jesus said, "apart

from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). In the Trinitarian reality, this applies to the Holy Spirit as well. Apart from God, we can do nothing.

Three years ago, at the first Encounter conference at St. Pius, I received a clear message for myself: "Reuben, you are operating on your own strength." I was not allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me. I was not having the impact that God wanted me to

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WWCCR VISION AND MISSION

Vision: that all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

Mission: to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:

- + To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- + To fan into flame the gifts we receive through the Sacraments
- + To develop a deeper life of prayer and worship

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OFFICE NOTES FROM JEAN BEERS Interim Office Manager



Pray With Expectation

The Promise of the Father, the Advocate, the Dove, the Wild Goose, the Holy Spirit—these names and titles of the Third Person of the Trinity reveal aspects of the One who is necessary for our sanctification and guidance. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to do the work of the kingdom of God. Jesus has told us that we will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire. It will not be the first time we are filled. Like the apostles, we also receive more than one infilling of the Spirit.

Jesus told the apostles before he ascended “to my God and your God, to my Father and your Father,” to “wait for the promise of the Father” ... “but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Reuben D’Sa explains this waiting in his article on page 1.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.” Several women share their experience of the Holy Spirit during the WWCCR Women’s Retreat last February. Their

stories are on pages 3 and 4 of this issue.

What did the apostles do after Jesus ascended into heaven? They stayed together, prayed with Jesus’ mother Mary, elected an apostle to replace Judas, waited with expectation and confidence, and prayed some more. Let us also wait and pray with expectation and confidence as we come together for another infilling of the Holy Spirit at the **Pentecost Celebration** on June 5th at St. Thomas Church. See the ad on page 8.

WWCCR welcomes **new Board member, Bob Brown**. Bob is not new to the Renewal, he has been actively promoting baptism in the Spirit since 1971, along with his wife Bobbie, who served WWCCR for many years as Healing Mass coordinator. See page 6.

Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Jim Northrop, will celebrate his **25th anniversary of Ordination** on Sunday, June 12 at his parish, St. Thomas, Tukwila. See the ad on page 5. ♦

A Calling of Hope: My First WWCCR Women's Retreat Experience

by Kianna Garmanian

"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you."

—Ephesians 1:18

Hope: a gift we all yearn for in a world full of change and uncertainty, yet one that can seem desperately hard to find. Christ has promised us the light of his hope, yet why is it so hard to believe that this hope exists for each one of us, especially in times of suffering and trials? At moments in our lives, our faith will be shaken, which is when we must turn to the gift of hope to bring us back to the core of our identity as disciples of Christ: Love.

On February 18-20, 2022, I was reminded again of the hope that Christ was calling me to practice in my life.

Allow me to begin by sharing some background information. In the fall of 2021, I was facing an

unexpected trial in my life; one which I didn't feel prepared for or equipped to carry. There were many moments when I doubted God's goodness and struggled to trust in his plan when my heart was suffering so deeply. Day after day, I continued to put one foot in front of the other and cling to Christ, but the weakness of my humanity often led me to lose sight of the gift of hope. This was the gift I needed in the midst of my difficult situation, yet it was one of the hardest to hold onto.

Ever most beautifully, all in line with the goodness of God's timing, I received an email from WWCCR with an advertisement about their upcoming women's retreat, which was titled "Called to Hope." My first thought was, "this is exactly what I need right now." I read through the retreat information and asked God if he could open the doors necessary for me to go on this retreat if it was his will.

Little did I know, God had an immediate answer to my prayer.

I received a phone call from a friend asking if I had heard about the upcoming women's retreat and, offered to sponsor me to attend this retreat. I was shocked! Praise God for his infinite goodness! Without a second thought, I excitedly responded "yes, I would love to attend!" God heard and answered my prayer, so I knew with all certainty that this retreat was going to be one of many blessings and graces, for God had opened the doors for me to attend. I knew the Lord was preparing to speak to my soul and renew the gift of his hope within my aching heart.

When I arrived on Friday evening, I was so impacted by the great number of women in the room. It was a sea of women and I was looking forward to joining my fellow sisters in Christ for the

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have. I had to learn to surrender to the Holy Spirit more. I invite you to take a step back and learn to rely on the Holy Spirit and be completely docile to His promptings. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit" (Zech 4:6). Our God-given work is guaranteed to be successful, not by human might or power, but by the guidance and empowering of God's Holy Spirit poured into our lives. And finally, we must not be afraid to step out in faith as the Holy Spirit leads us, to proclaim the gospel and make Christ present in the world.

I invite you to take the Father's promise seriously. No matter what spiritual gifts you have, be assured that there is more! Because our God "gives generously and ungrudgingly to those who ask" (James 1:5). As Jesus tells us in the gospels and St. Paul in his letters, God truly wants us to receive the gifts of the Spirit and use them for His glory. Come, join us at the Pentecost event on June 5th, as we gather together as a community of believers, to praise, pray and receive the Father's promise in its fullness. Come Holy Spirit! ♦

Deacon Reuben D'Sa serves St. Jude parish in Redmond, Washington. He will be the guest speaker for the Pentecost Celebration on June 5th at St. Thomas Parish.

From Bitterness to Conversion

by Therese Thomas

I've had a true conversion to the Catholic faith after attending the WWCCR Women's Retreat in February. Before the retreat, I was bitter that my life crumbled back in 2010 when I experienced a lot of personal loss and midlife crisis. I went financially bankrupt and lost the family home to foreclosure. At that same time, I quit my job as a hospice nurse due to compassion fatigue (a syndrome once called burnout). I lost several close family members in addition to managing crises and death on a daily basis in my job. I stopped caring and became overwhelmed with grief. I became very self-destructive.

I went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the retreat. The priest went through all the commandments for my examination of conscience. It seems sin can start out as a snowflake and later become an avalanche. Staying away from grace and the Sacraments can harden one's heart. I believe there should be a sign outside the confessional..."come and get your grace." I plan to go more often.

Our small groups fostered safety and connection throughout the weekend. The joy of the women in attendance



Mass at the Women's Retreat

was palpable and revitalizing. Many of us had been isolated because of the virus for such a long time that coming together in collective harmony was such a treat.

In Mass, we prayed that those who are marginalized would get their basic needs met and that those who are estranged would find comfort. Before I left Seattle, I got a big hug from my son John. We haven't really spoken in ten years. This felt like a hug from heaven. They said at the retreat that God always shows up! ♦

Therese Thomas is a parishioner at All Saints parish in Happy Camp, California.

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weekend. Before we began, I prayed to the Lord and presented my prayer intention for the retreat, which dealt with the situation I had been facing in my life. I aimed high and lifted all that was on my heart to the Lord, while holding nothing back.

The retreat itself was amazing—praise and worship music, prayer, empowering talks from Jan Alkire and Gabby Herndon, bonding time with other women, small group discussions, delicious food and snacks, beautiful nature views, and more.

Saturday night was when everything came together for me and our good Lord answered the prayer that I lifted to him at the start of the retreat. Joining together for

Mass and healing prayer, the Holy Spirit was on fire in the chapel, stirring the hearts of many. One of the hearts that was deeply impacted and moved that night was mine—my little, imperfect, aching heart that longed to be held and loved by my Savior.

I was prayed over by two women, and the words they shared with me, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit, directly answered my prayer. Along with this new found wisdom, I experienced a wave of deep peace that surpassed anything of this world. My heart felt renewed by the spring of living water, flowing from the side of Christ, and I once again felt strengthened by the gift of hope.

You see, hope is not dependent on earthly circumstances, but rather, it

is the solid understanding of the promises of Christ, and more so, the joy of his love. Hope is resting your head on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and listening to the words, "I love you, my child" with each of his heartbeats. Hope is putting one foot in front of the other and saying, "Jesus, I trust in you" even when your life seems to be falling apart. Hope is the gift I needed and the gift God granted to me during this women's retreat.

So, my dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, may we take this moment to renew our hope in the Lord together—the Lord who loves us, knows each of us by name, and has called us to bring his love to a world that is aching for him. God Bless! ♦

Kianna Garmanian is a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Bothell.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY

OF YOUR
Ordination

TELL THE
heavens and earth
to celebrate and sing!

COMMAND
every mountain
to join in song!

- ISAIAH 49:13



**CONGRATULATIONS FATHER JIM
ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR
ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD!**

June 12th, 2022

2 PM Mass

Reception to follow

[Due to COVID, guidelines for the reception
TBD by the Archdiocese of Seattle]

**Please check the St. Thomas website
for more details at saintthomastukwila.org**

**Please pray the following prayer in support of Father Jim and
his continued service to St. Thomas parish and WWCCR.**

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priest, Father Jim Northrop.
Through him, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help Father Jim to be
strong in his vocation. Set his soul on fire with love for your people.*

*Grant him the wisdom, understanding, and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of
Jesus. Inspire him with the vision of your Kingdom. Give him the words he needs to
spread the Gospel. Allow him to experience joy in his ministry. Help him to be an instru-
ment of your divine grace.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

May the love of the Lord be with you always.

Now What?

by Andrea Garcia

I love the Easter season. But for me the week after Easter also brings with it a sense of “Now what?” Let me explain.

You see, I help with the RCIA class in my parish and I love walking along side those men and women preparing to enter the church at Easter. Meeting every week for a year, these people have built relationships, learned about the faith and have now become part of the Catholic family at the Easter vigil. What an awesome year for those people! Yet I know with all the excitement some of our new brothers and sisters still ask us, “Now What?”

After Jesus returned to heaven, I bet the disciples asked that very same question, “Now what?” I can only imagine the tremendous flux of emotions that gripped the

**“I will be with you
always, even to the
end of the world.”**

- Matthew 28:20

disciples during the days and weeks after Jesus death and resurrection. Grief, joy, more grief followed by emptiness as they grappled with the thought of being left behind.

Then they remembered what Jesus said.

“While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak”
Acts 1:4

Jesus answers that question for all who follow him. To wait. The Holy Spirit is that promise to be poured out on us and our families,

so we don’t ever have to worry about the “Now What” we ask sometimes in life. Let us hear instead Jesus reassuring us to wait for doors of our interior upper room to be opened wide to the Holy Spirit.

Have the doors of your interior upper room been opened? Have you welcomed the Holy Spirit in? If/when you do, you realize that the prayerful waiting is one part of what’s next. It’s not just about waiting, but about receiving and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit who guides us into the next steps. Prayerful waiting is something we do every day, and so is receiving and responding. It’s a wonderful, lifelong adventure that we undertake with our brothers and sisters. ♦

Andrea Garcia is a WWCCR Board member and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Seattle.

Photo: PIXABAY.com



WWCCR Welcomes new Board member, Bob Brown

Bob is a native of Seattle, a member of Christ the King parish. Married to Bobbie with 4 children 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, he is a graduate of St. Benedict school, Seattle Prep, Seattle U and UW. A “cradle Catholic,” he was baptized at the Cathedral when 3 weeks old, and baptized in the Spirit in 1971, and has been active in Charismatic Renewal since that time. He was one of the first two Eucharistic ministers at Blessed Sacrament parish and has served in that ministry at Christ the King. He also serves on the Christ the King finance committee. Thank you, Bob, for agreeing to serve on the WWCCR Board of Directors.

May/June INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

May 1	Pope Francis	June 1	Pope Francis
May 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	June 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
May 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS	June 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
May 4	Bishop Frank Schuster	June 4	Bishop Frank Schuster
May 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	June 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
May 6	Fr. Nicholas Kayongo	June 6	Fr. Jan Lundberg
May 7	Deacon Patrick Kelley	June 7	Deacon Jack Luz
May 8	Deacon Dennis Kelly	June 8	Fr. Fabian MacDonald
May 9	Deacon Lyle Kendall	June 9	Seminarian Evan MacKenzie
May 10	Deacon Larry Kheriaty	June 10	Fr. Peter Mactutis
May 11	Fr. Young-Kwan Kim	June 11	Seminarian Maliko Madden
May 12	Fr. Mayk Kiszewski	June 12	Fr. John Madigan
May 13	Fr. Richard Klepac	June 13	Deacon Abel Magaña-Sainz
May 14	Fr. Ronald Knudsen	June 14	Fr. Paul Magnano
May 15	Deacon Richard Labrecque	June 15	Deacon Felix Maguire
May 16	Deacon Loren Lane	June 16	Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz
May 17	Fr. Derek Lappe	June 17	Deacon Jorge Malca
May 18	Fr. Leo Larrivee	June 18	Fr. Maurice Mamba
May 19	Fr. Seamus Lavery	June 19	Deacon Terry Marcell
May 20	Fr. Gary Lazzeroni	June 20	Fr. Miguel Márquez
May 21	Fr. Francis Le	June 21	Fr. Gerald Mayovsky
May 22	Fr. James Lee	June 22	Fr. David Mayovsky
May 23	Fr. Se Ho Lee	June 23	Fr. Dean Mbuzy
May 24	Deacon Joe Lehman	June 24	Fr. Richard "Woody" McCallister
May 25	Fr. Isidro López	June 25	Fr. Patrick McDermott
May 26	Fr. Dwight Lewis	June 26	Fr. Michael McDermott
May 27	Deacon Juan Lezcano	June 27	Deacon Larry McDonald
May 28	Fr. Joseph Loftus	June 28	Deacon Angus McDonell
May 29	Fr. Richard Luberti	June 29	Deacon Stephen McGlone
May 30	Fr. John Ludvik	June 30	Deacon Rod McGuire
May 31	Deacon Craig Lundberg		

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray...

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us at our Pentecost Celebration on June 5th. Come in power to all those who attend and renew our fervor to go out in the name of Jesus to the people that we meet and proclaim that Jesus is Lord.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on Fr Jim Northrop as he celebrates 25 years of priesthood. Melt him, mold him, fill him, and use him as he ministers to your people.

Spirit of the Living God, guide and direct all young adults who are discerning their vocation right now. May the Holy Spirit prepare the way for them and may they joyfully say yes to his will for their life.

Spirit of the Living God, bless all of those who support WWCCR with their prayers, their time and their treasure, that together the Lord may use each of us to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to our parishes, families and communities.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on the Board of Directors as they discern and lead WWCCR. Give them wisdom and courage to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their decisions and planning.

Amen.

Lord, lift up your holy priests, deacons and seminarians; grant them the graces they need to minister to your people. Keep them pure and strong in your love; give them courage when things are difficult and accompany them when they are lonely; strengthen them in times of weakness. Amen.



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GLEANNINGS
MAY/JUNE 2022

PENTECOST - JUNE 5, 2022; 2-4 PM



PRAISE & WORSHIP
WITH JULIA COX
& TEAM.

**WAIT FOR THE PROMISE
OF THE FATHER.**

ACTS 1:4



GUEST SPEAKER
DEACON REUBEN
D'SA.



ADORATION
WITH FR. JIM
NORTHROP.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, TUKWILA
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