

# Kids' Chronicle

## The Holy Spirit fills the disciples

BY JOE SARNICOLA

**B**efore Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit he would be sending them.

On the day of Pentecost, they were all together in one room praying. Suddenly the air was filled with the sound of a powerful, roaring wind. The wind completely engulfed the house where the disciples were. Out of the wind came tongues of fire that hovered above the heads of everyone in the room. Immediately, the spirit of God filled them and they began to pray in different languages.

Because it was Pentecost, Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem. They were attracted by the noises and voices that were coming from the disciples' house. A crowd had begun to gather outside to watch what was happening.

"I wonder what is going on," asked one man. "I have never heard anyone in this area speak the language of my country, yet these people are praying and singing as if my language were their own."

"I find it remarkable that you have said that," declared another man. "I have lived in Greece for many years, and I hear these men speak Greek."

And so it was, that anyone who spoke the language of a foreign country or a different dialect, that was the language that they heard the disciples praying in.

"What does it mean?" someone asked. "It is a miracle!"



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

But not everyone was convinced. "I think these people have had too much wine to drink," one man said. "Or maybe some of us have. It is impossible to speak in so many languages at the same time."

And so the members of the crowd became divided over the reasons for what was happening. Then Peter came out of the house and motioned for everyone to be quiet.

"Listen, my friends, and all visitors to Jerusalem," he said, "I know you have come from Mesopotamia, Egypt, and many other countries. And I know some of you think we have been drinking, but

I assure you we have not had any wine. What you have just heard was foretold by the prophet Joel, when God told him, 'I will pour my spirit on all mankind, and I will work wonders, and everyone who calls on my name will be saved.'"

"But what does it all mean?" someone asked.

"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus," Peter replied, "and you will receive forgiveness from your sins and you will be filled with the spirit of God."

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Acts 2

## Q&A

1. Why were the disciples still in Jerusalem?
2. What did the people from different countries hear?

## Bible Accent

Pentecost was one of those harvest feasts celebrated by the ancient Israelites according to laws given to them by God.

Originally called the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost is named after the Hebrew word for "fifty" because it was held seven weeks, or about 50 days, after the harvest. It also traditionally corresponded to the time when Moses received the law on Mount Sinai 50 days after the first fruits of the harvest were offered to God.

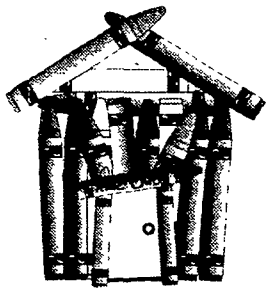
From the time of the events described in the New Testament, Pentecost is more often remembered as the day when the Holy Spirit first filled the apostles in Jerusalem. So important was that day, the Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to it as the beginning of "the age of the church."

## St. Philip Neri

St. Philip Neri was born in Florence, Italy, in 1515. He received his education from Dominican monks and his family was hoping that he would become a partner with a rich relative in a prosperous business. However, St. Philip had a vision that inspired him to pursue religious studies and to spend long days in prayer. The accumulation of wealth and status no longer interested him.

St. Philip soon began preaching and developing ministries that would help the sick. He and the people who followed his teachings were called "Oratorians." They rang a bell before they began preaching in order to call people together to listen to them. St. Philip was well liked, and patrons gladly donated money and materials to the causes he was supporting, such as the building of hospitals. We remember him on May 26.

## Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **How does the Holy Spirit help us to live as better Christians?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Deadline for entries is May 20, 1999. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was **Michelle Reece**, a third-grade student at St. John the Evangelist School, Greece. In response to the question **Why do you think the two men on the road to Emmaus did not know who Jesus was until he broke the bread?** she wrote:

I think the two men did not know Jesus until he broke the bread because they thought Jesus was dead and were too upset. When the stranger explained the words of the prophets and all the words written in the Scriptures the men understood that Jesus would rise from the dead. When they stranger broke the bread they remembered what happened at the Last Supper. They understood that Jesus was alive and that Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures.

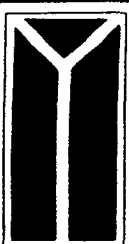
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## Puzzle

Cross Out the letters A, C, T, and S to discover what Jesus told his disciples they would receive in Luke 24.

Answers on page 3.

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