

## Pentecost – Vigil - Year ABC

- This is Graduation Season - Commencement – A beginning
  - Pentecost Sunday celebrates a graduation – a commencement
    - Christ had left them at the Ascension
    - Holy Spirit comes on Pentecost and empowers them
    - Pentecost is the birth of the Church
      - NOT Church as buildings
      - CHURCH as the People of God united by HS
        - Had been hiding, afraid
        - NOT ANY MORE
  - It was no longer proper for the disciples to look back
    - They had been prepared to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
    - They had been prepared to form the People of God
    - Now they had to get to work
- FIRST THING the world noticed
  - When they spoke, everyone understood – regardless of their country
  - The exact opposite of the Tower of Babel
    - At Babel people challenged God (let us build a tower to heaven and make a name for ourselves) PRIDE - & were divided by language
    - At Pentecost people submit to God, surrender to the HS - & were united by language of the Holy Spirit
    - The people left the Tower of Babel confused, in turmoil
    - The people left Upper Room on Pentecost united by the Spirit as one people – on fire for God.
- As Christians – that same fire, that same power is ours today.
  - Same God, Same HS, Same power Power
  - Dunamus
  - Jesus is alive - among us - through His spirit – the Holy Spirit
  - Church has been empowered to change the world!
- It all begins on Pentecost Sunday
  - The Graduation Day of the disciples
  - The commencement – the birth of the Church
  - We pray to the Holy Spirit among us today
    - To enlighten us - To open us to His promptings
    - To help us to serve the People of God - To evangelize
    - To live our vocations as married Christian people, as single Christian people, as Christian parents and grandparents, as people who are identified by their actions
  - Our ancestors prayed that the day would come when YWHY would be their God and they would be his people
    - That day is Pentecost