

Fr. Martin's Reflection – June 5, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this great weekend of Pentecost, may you open your heart to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom: In the gift of wisdom, we see God at work in our lives and in the world. Wisdom enables us to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

Understanding: We comprehend how we need to live as a follower of Christ. It is the gift whereby self-evident principles are known.

Counsel (Right Judgement): With the gift of counsel/right judgement, we know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right.

Fortitude (Courage): With the gift of fortitude/courage, we overcome our fear and are willing to take risks as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge: With the gift of knowledge, we understand the meaning of God. The gift of knowledge is more than an accumulation of facts.

Piety (Reverence): With the gift of piety/reverence, we have a deep sense of respect for God and the church. A person with reverence recognizes our total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe): With the gift of fear of the Lord we are aware of the glory and majesty of God. A person with wonder and awe knows that God is the perfection of all we desire: perfect knowledge, perfect goodness, perfect power, and perfect love.

On Friday, June 3, and Sunday, June 5, our young women and men of the 8th Grade received the Sacrament of Confirmation. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and wish them every success and best wishes for the future, I also want to remind them that there is always a place for them at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. I pray that you don't see the Sacrament of Confirmation as the means to an end – end of Religious Ed, the end of early rising on a Sunday morning, or the giving up of my Tuesdays, or the end of me having to go to Mass. The Sacrament of Confirmation is not an end, but the beginning of a whole new life, a life of faith, hope, and love. Confirmation entitles you to full membership in your Church, entitles you to a voice, a place to worship, and more importantly, it entitles you to a faith family that will surround you with love, prayers, and support. Always know, you will be forever in our hearts. I would like to thank all who were involved in preparing our Confirmandi for Confirmation – parents, godparents, teachers, and a special thanks to Margaret Zola, RE Coordinator. Have a great summer and a wonderful life.

To all our young people, who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday last, and for all in our parish I extend this prayer and blessing:

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

Mary, Mother of The Church Feast Day

'When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.' (Jn 19: 2) As you know, Monday, June 6, is our feast day. I would like to invite you to a special celebration of the Eucharist at 6:30pm in St. Mary Church and for some refreshments after in the school Gym.

'Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, and most worthy of all praise, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.'

Fr. Martin