

Dear Friends and Visitors

The Lord be with you

Some years ago, Ava made news when a man walked into a bank, demanded their money and walked out leaving a perfect picture of his face on the security camera.

This time a tornado touched down right in the center of Ava's town square, blew some roofs away and pulled the front off a two-storey health food shop there. It injured or killed no one, although much of the power was out for a few days. We were more fortunate than others in Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.



The Guest House renovation crew, Gena and Tom Valli and Steve Rossel, have come down from St. Louis for several long weekends of work. They have completed the combined rooms of #7 and #8. The result is all that we might hope for with very good taste and professional workmanship. Mike Melton of Cuba has been the guiding director and supervisor for this project. Fr. Paul Jones, our family brother, spent one weekend refinishing the doors.

Bro. Francis Flaherty has been a monk-on-loan here from New Clairvaux Abbey in California for around five years. He now will make a change of stability in mid-June, which means that our community and monastery will become his spiritual family and home. He serves as our Vocation Director. Fr. Justin Trinity, a Filipino, with Canadian citizenship will make his observership with

us soon.



Bro Lazarus Mansi has completed one year of temporary vows. He has been drawn for a long time to the lay brother's more simple form of monastic life. At present, he has begun this schedule as an experiment. Time will tell if this is God's Will and Bro. Lazarus' true vocation. Our Lord told us that by their fruits you would know.



The small pond in the center of our inner quadrangle has finally been patched successfully and it is now holding water. It also became a fishpond recently when a half dozen goldfish were turned loose in its water. So far, none have turned belly-up. They prefer to hide under and around the large stones on the bottom, though now and then we catch a flash of gold.

Larry Bessette has been working on several chronic roof leaks. He has completely fixed two bad areas by professional flashing work. Next, he is tackling the highest peak. Then on to the

opposite end of the same peak.

Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit sent by the Father and the Son came down upon all of the disciples together. The Spirit came with the sound of a mighty wind and in the form of fiery tongues, fulfilling Our Lord's promise that they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

What is the Church? The Church can be described in several ways: the Kingdom of God on earth, the Mystical Body of Christ, the People of God (fallen children of Adam and Eve, filled with the Holy Spirit), the Flock of Christ shepherded by the successors of the Apostles and of Peter, Christ's chief shepherd, the Bride of Christ, Holy Mother the Church.

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, God continued and extended the Mystery and Scandal of the Incarnation. Just as Our Lord Jesus has a human element and a divine element in Himself, so the Church has a human element and a divine element. Just as Christ came as Redeemer and Savior of the whole human family, so the Church continues His redeeming saving mission to the whole world.



How does the Church carry out her mission? By preaching and teaching the Gospel message of Christ, by caring for the needy, by governing and by giving and nourishing our adopted share in God's divine life through the Seven Sacraments. A Sacrament is an external sign instituted by Christ to give interior grace, or a personal saving action of Our Lord Jesus performed in and by the Church. All Seven Sacraments have a human element and a divine element. The human element in each Sacrament involves us. The one essential divine element in all Seven Sacraments is the Indwelling Holy Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus, won the Gift of the Indwelling Holy Spirit for us by His redeeming sacrifice, and He enshrined His Redemption in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the source of all grace.

In Baptism the Holy Mother Church gives the essential gift of divine life to the born again child of God, along with the special grace of Faith for an abiding light in our darkness.



In Confirmation the Church gives a more full inpouring of the Holy Spirit to help us pass from a child's faith to a more adult responsible faith, along with the special grace of Hope for trusting courage in our spiritual combat.

In the Eucharist we receive the Body and Blood of Christ Himself, along with the special grace of His Holy Spirit of Charity to love God our Father and our neighbor as Jesus has first loved.

In Holy Orders, the Holy Spirit gives a fuller share in Christ's Priesthood to continue the sacramental ministry of the Church, along with special graces to live a holy life.

In the Sacrament of Matrimony the bride and groom give and receive their marriage covenant union in the Holy Spirit, which is the image of the union of Christ and his Church along with special lifetime graces to live as a Christlike husband and wife, father and Mother.

In the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation Christ and the Church restored to life the spiritually dead by forgiving sins and a renewed inpouring of the Holy Spirit, along with special graces for healing our spiritual wounds and for persevering in our personal struggles.

In the Anointing of the Sick, the Church brings the Spirit of Christ, the Divine Physician, to the sick person, sometimes with special grace for bodily healing but always with the grace of dying in the arms of Christ and passing with Him through death to eternal life.

We see that the event of Pentecost is not only the one-time Birthday of the Church, but the ongoing mystery and reality of the Holy Spirit always coming to purify and sanctify the church, to guide her in the sacramental ministry, her teaching and governing, her caring for the needy, and to give us a growing Union with Our Lord Jesus. It will give us a more full share in his divine life, as members of His Body on earth.

Fr Cyprian, Abbot