

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday
“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit doesn't come into our lives to protect us from suffering as she does to sustain us in them.

Sometimes it is easy to see Holy Spirit at work in us

I remember reading some years ago about a woman at Seattle University whose interest in religion progressively dropped so that by the time of her graduation, she no longer attended church. Her story focused on how that changed.

“One day, several years after having given up going to church, I went to spend some time with a married sister who lived near a major ski resort. On Sunday morning, she invited me to go to church with her. I went skiing instead.

“On one of my runs down the hill that Sunday, I hit a tree and broke my leg. Sporting a huge cast, I was released from the hospital several days later. The next Sunday morning, my sister again asked me to come to church with her. This time, with skiing not an option, I accepted the invitation.

“As luck would have it, the readings for the day were about the Good Shepherd, and as chance would have it, there was a visiting-priest from Israel. He began his homily: ‘There's a practice among shepherds in Israel that existed at the time of Jesus and is still in use today that needs to be understood in order to appreciate what Jesus says about God as the Good Shepherd. Sometimes very early on in the life of a lamb, if a shepherd senses that this particular lamb is going to be a congenital stray and forever be drifting away from the herd, he deliberately breaks its leg so that he has to carry it until its leg is healed. By that time, the lamb becomes so attached to the shepherd that it never strays again! I may be dense, but given my broken leg and all that chance coincidence, hearing those words woke up something inside me. I have prayed and gone to church regularly ever since’.”

Sometimes it's hard to see Holy Spirit at work in us.

A gunman opened fire at [Santa Fe High School](#) in [Santa Fe, Texas](#), on Friday, May 18, 2018, causing at least ten fatalities and 13 injured. Police identified the

alleged shooter as 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis, who was taken into custody. A second person, an unidentified 18-year-old, was also taken into custody.

Pagourtzis began firing his weapon into an art class at the school at around 7:40 am. He was born to **Greek** immigrant parents. According to students, Dimitrios was an odd character who preferred to wear a **trench coat** almost every day, even in the heat. He was also described as a reserved character who kept to himself and didn't talk to many people. He had indicated in his journals that he was **suicidal**. According to at least one witness, Pagourtzis was the victim of bullying by multiple students and coaches.

President Donald Trump expressed his **condolences**.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos said "*we simply cannot allow this trend to continue.*"

U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi said, "*Our prayers are with the families and the loved ones who have been wounded. and lost.*"

The organizers of the **March for Our Lives** stated, "*To the students and faculty of Santa Fe High School, we are with you.*"

Texas Governor **Greg Abbott** said this attack was "*one of the most heinous attacks that we've seen in the history of Texas schools.*"

Sometimes it is both easy and hard to see Holy Spirit at work in us

In 1873, Anna Spafford set sail from New England with her four daughters for a vacation in France to be followed later by her husband. On the way, their ship was rammed by another and sank, along with her four daughters. She cabled back to her husband, "Saved alone."

Some time later, Horatio Spafford took the same sail, and when he came to the area where the ship sank, he went below, dipped deep into his faith and composed the following prayer, later set to music. It must have been hard for him to see the Spirit at work in this tragedy, and yet at the same time he was consoled by this very Spirit:

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say,*

It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control;
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul.*

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.*

*For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall flow;
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

*But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
The trumpet shall sound out the voice of the Lord,
Blessed hope, blessed rest for my soul.*

*And Lord, haste the day, when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,
Telling all, it is well with my soul.*

**Holy Spirit doesn't come into our lives to protect us from suffering
as she does to sustain us in them.**

*Let us turn to Holy Mother of God to comfort those
impacted by the school shooting in Texas*

Hail Mary..."