

Choose Your Image

The month of May, “Mary’s month,” began with the feast of Joseph the Worker, the “quiet” member of the Holy Family, now celebrated in two feasts in the Liturgical Year. Near the end of May, we celebrate the coming of the most elusive member of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit. While the Trinity, Three Persons in One God, is the great fundamental Mystery of our faith, God Father, Creator, and God, Son, Incarnate in Jesus, are more easily depicted in tactile images, thus more comprehensible to our finite intellects. God Spirit can leave us floundering in attempts to depict, let alone understand the Third Person of the Trinity.

Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)



But now we celebrate Pentecost, the great feast of “Shavout” for the Jewish community, 50 days after Passover, and for Christians, 50 days after the Resurrection, when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. The [scriptures this week](#) offer several images of the Holy Spirit: “a strong, driving wind,” “tongues of fire,” breath, Advocate. In the early years of the Church, following her “birth” on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had center stage. Many passages in the Acts of the Apostles refer to the disciples calling on the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit and directed by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was very real to those early disciples, inspiring, prompting and encouraging them to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Clearly, the Spirit, Third Person of the Trinity, was and is active, motivating and sending Christians out into the world.

Through the centuries, as the Church became more institutionalized, the Spirit, though always with the Church, faded somewhat in human experience, with the crucified and risen Jesus, the Son of the Father, most central to the Christian faith, available through the Eucharist and depiction in the arts, and with people in their suffering. The Holy Spirit seemed less relevant and available in the busy, secular, expanding world. More recently, the Spirit has been “rediscovered” as many people felt the need for nourishing their souls in this increasingly materialized society with its goal of accumulating wealth. Many people, whether professing a religion or not, yearn to deepen their spirituality, satisfy their thirst for Divine Presence animated by the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who is Breath of God in us, energizing fire in the soul, urging us Christians, as on that first Pentecost, to go out into the world like a strong wind, or a gentle whisper, or a burning fire, bringing a message of love, truth and mercy, and serving as advocates for justice.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action:

Consider which image of the Holy Spirit most speaks to you on Pentecost 2021. Why?

Suggested Petitions:

God, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the Earth. We pray...

Come, Holy Spirit, come, into our hearts, homes, communities, country and world. We pray...

Prayer: Magnificat of Pentecost

Breathe on us, O Spirit of Fire.

Consume us, O Spirit of Love.

Descend on us, O Spirit of Power.

Visit us, O Spirit of God.

Astonish us with new life as you astonished Mary of Nazareth.

Touch our hearts with joy as you touched Mary of Bethlehem.

Fill us with the vintage wine as you filled Mary at Cana.

Console us with each other as you consoled Mary on Calvary.

Kindle us with your fire as you kindled Mary at Pentecost.

May our hearts burn within us.

With Mary may we sparkle with the radiance of Christ.

May we proclaim to all generations:

“He is alive!” AMEN.

Solidarity With Seafarers Virtual Prayer Service and Petition

The [Solidarity with Seafarers](#) Campaign is hosting a virtual prayer service on the [National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea](#).

Please join in this **Thursday, May 20th at 8:00 pm EST (5:00 pm PT)**. [Click to register here!](#) The Zoom Link will be sent to you by email prior to the gathering.

Please continue to disseminate the [online petition](#) to Walmart to protect Seafarers designed and hosted by the U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking. The sisters have a goal to reach 1,000 signatures by the Day of the Seafarer on June 25th. At 200 signatures they are off to a good start, but have a long road ahead. [Please sign and share.](#)



Mother Mary, Star of the Sea, help us to deepen our solidarity with the 1.5 million seafarers worldwide, who work at sea for months at a time, far from home, for the wellbeing of the human family.

Treaty People Gathering to Oppose Line 3 in Minnesota

The Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline is being constructed through Anishinaabe treaty land and now is a critical moment to support the movement to defend water, Indigenous



sovereignty, and our climate. The [Treaty People Gathering](#) is a national call to action led by Honor the Earth, RISE Coalition, Giniw Collective, MN350, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, and many more, inviting allies to come to northern Minnesota in June.

On June 5-8, we will gather in Northern Minnesota to put our bodies on the line, to stop construction and tell the world that the days of tar sands pipelines are over. Only a major, nonviolent uprising - including direct action - will propel this issue to the top of the nation's consciousness and force action from the Biden Administration.

Line 3 would violate Indigenous treaty rights. It would also carry 700,000 barrels of tar sands oil from Canada each day. It would have a climate impact on par with Keystone, and pose an existential threat to waterways like the Mississippi.

[Click here](#) to see a list of FAQ's and RSVP to come to Minnesota. Sign up as faith delegations [using this form](#).

Sign the Faith Letter to Congress Urging Support for Clean Energy

Our good friends at [Interfaith Power and Light](#) have developed a petition to Congress urging support for an infrastructure plan that tackles climate change.

From IPL:

It is the moral responsibility of our nation, and our sacred task as people of faith, to care for our neighbors, our common home, and protect our children's future. We must work for environmental justice and public health while addressing the climate crisis.

[Please add your name to this letter to Congress.](#)

We have an opportunity to pass economic recovery and infrastructure legislation that includes historic levels of investment to safeguard Creation; to address the harms of climate change and pollution caused by fossil fuel extraction and related industries; and to fulfill our moral obligation to leave a thriving world for future generations.

We urge you to [sign and share the petition](#) with your networks. Signatures due by June 9th.



Shoulder to Shoulder Hosting Virtual Faith Over Fear Training

Our good friends at Shoulder to Shoulder are hosting [Faith Over Fear](#), an online course to equip faith & community leaders with the research, tools, & strategies for the ongoing work to counter anti-Muslim bias, discrimination & violence in the United States.

Join communities from across the country to deepen your skills and connect with others who are working to address anti-Muslim discrimination. This virtual



training has brought together updated research, original video content and online self-guided learning modules, along with 4 live sessions.

Registration is open now for the next training starting May 19th! [Click here](#) for more information and to sign up.

Toolkit for Stimulus Check Outreach to Immigrant Families

To provide financial relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed three rounds of stimulus checks. During the first round, only filers with a valid Social Security Number (SSN) were eligible for the payment. With each new round of payments, the eligibility requirements have expanded to include more people.

Understandably, there is considerable confusion among families with immigrants about who is eligible for stimulus checks and how to claim the payment. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has developed [this toolkit](#), which features **resources on how to connect harder-to-reach populations**, such as a media guide, talking points and more.

Millions of Americans who don't normally file taxes are at risk of missing out on their stimulus checks and other tax credits. You can find additional outreach resources at www.eitcoutreach.org/coronavirus.



Join in the Stand Up, Speak Up Interfaith Prayer Vigil

Our good friends at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are hosting [Stand Up. Speak Up](#) Interfaith Prayer Vigil. The goal is to focus less on the differences that can separate us - our faith backgrounds, ethnicities, and countries of origin - and demonstrate that our commonalities - compassion, love, and humanity - are what unify us.



The [Stand Up. Speak Up toolkit](#) provides a variety of resources that outline tangible ways to support immigrants and refugees and engage in interfaith prayer, provide educational information on the recent impacts of policy and the global pandemic.

On **Sunday, May 23 at 4 pm ET/1pm PT**, LIRS will host their first-ever virtual interfaith prayer vigil. We encourage you to join in as we lift up the voices of immigrants and refugees, pray for their safety, and advocate for welcome. [Register for the Prayer Vigil by clicking here.](#)

Letter to President Urging Reduction of Nuclear Threat

Last week, a [statement](#) coordinated by the Union of Concerned Scientists' (UCS) Global Security Program and Stephen Colecchi, the former director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace was sent to President Biden calling for the reduction of the threat that nuclear weapons pose to the world.

The statement, signed by fourteen Catholic leaders and top scientists — including Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA and Marie Dennis, OFS, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace, urged the Biden administration to revise dated U.S. nuclear policies, reduce U.S. spending on nuclear weapons, and engage in diplomacy with Russia and other countries. The statement affirms President Biden's extension of the New START Treaty with Russia and offers several suggestions to further reduce risks. [Read the full statement here.](#)

With so many issues demanding our attention today, we cannot lose sight of the nuclear threat, and peacemaking is one of our core values.

