



## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: ENDANGERED AND NOT SO COMMON



The Solemnity of Pentecost, like the weekly celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection on Sunday, brings millions of people home for Holy Mass. At Altars all around the world, on each of the earth’s seven continents, believers – **in obedience to the command that the Lord Himself gave when He said: “Do this in memory of Me”** – gather to offer Thanksgiving for *the great things the Almighty has done for us*: (cf. Saint Luke 1:49) through, with, and in Christ Jesus!

Each and every time the Ordained and non-Ordained come together and make that offering according to the “rites and texts for the Celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist” (GIRM #1), the Priest at the Altar calls upon God to: “bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of Your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eucharistic Prayer I). And so it happens; by the power of the Holy Spirit (remembered solemnly on Pentecost): *the Word becomes Flesh and dwells amongst us!* (cf. Saint John 1:14)

The Gift of the Spirit that through the act of *transubstantiation* changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus at Holy Mass, effects that change so that when Holy Communion is received, those in communion with the Church can have *Life in the Spirit and have it to the full* (cf. Saint John X:10), while “whoever eats the Bread or drinks the Cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the Body and Blood of the Lord” (I Cor. xi:27–28).

*Life in the Spirit* is about much more than *coming home* for Holy Mass on Sunday. It is much more than participating in a Night of Praise on Tuesday, Professing the Vows of a Religious on Friday, being Ordained a Priest on a Saturday, exchanging Consent in Holy Matrimony on a Thursday, or playing basketball in a church gymnasium on Wednesday. Yes, *Life in the Spirit* is about all of that ... but it is also about so much more!

*Life in the Spirit* (the Way God intended it to be lived) has become somewhat of a rare commodity (almost as rare as common sense). In fact, it is quickly becoming (like the human person in the womb) an endangered species. (Please join us for a **Fortnight for Freedom (21 June – 4 July)** to help protect our inalienable right to the liberty to live *Life in the Spirit* in the USA.)



When we are truly living *Life in the Spirit*, we do not support LGBTQ “Pride Month” events, we do not support Planned Parenthood’s efforts to prevent the conception and birth of human life, we do not support Sports Illustrated and Victoria’s Secret exploitation of the body for profit, we do not applaud the assassination of a person’s character on *Saturday Night Live*, we do not get drunk, ... we do not sin.

*Life in the Spirit*; received on our Baptismal Day, nourished at Holy Mass on Sunday, sealed on Confirmation Day, consecrated in Religious Life on Profession Day, shared with a member of the opposite sex on our Wedding Day, and offered to God on our Ordination Day, is truly lived when we put our lives (as Priests, Religious, Married, and Single) at the service of the Gospel. When we are truly living *Life in the Spirit* we feed the hungry, live by the Golden Rule; we *do to others whatever we would have them do to us*. (cf. Saint Matthew VII:12)

It is important to remember, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, that *Life in the Spirit* led those who were anointed by that Spirit in the Upper Room (as it did the Anointed One Himself), to call others to *repent and believe in the Gospel* as well!

As God’s anointed ones of the twenty-first century, we too must reclaim that *Life in the Spirit* that confronts the attitude of entitlement (freedom to do what I want) by calling people to repentance. If we don’t warn the wicked man or speak out to dissuade him from his wicked conduct so that he may live, the Lord tells us in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel: “that wicked man shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, on the other hand, you have warned the wicked man, yet he has not turned away from his evil nor from his wicked conduct, then he shall die for his sin, but you shall save your life” and live *Life in the Spirit* forever!