

A Short Teaching on the Divine Theme
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on Pentecost Sunday.

Readings: ACTS 2:1-11; PS 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13; JN 20:19-23

Easter Greetings! He is risen! Alleluia! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Pentecost is the final day of the Easter Season. I wrote a piece on Pentecost a few years back and it was moved to the blog. <http://gerrypalermo.blog.com/files/2014/12/A-Short-Teaching-on-Pentecost.pdf> I post the writings once or twice a year on that blog.

For this Pentecost, let's start with the Psalm 104:34... "Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD". This particular translation uses 'theme'. Other translations use 'meditation' and another 'speech'. Theme works well as it encompasses both the spiritual (meditation) and physical action (speech).

What is God's theme and what is my theme? We have a hint as to God's theme by the Psalmist theme – "I will be glad in the Lord". For a human person our greatest moment is when we discover gladness in the other. I never tire of the courtship stories of our elderly which are stories of discovery and the theme of their lives.

Our perfect theme, perfect otherness, is the Lord. In the readings for Pentecost we see how the perfect divine theme embraces us. A quick summary: (1) they were filled and received the Holy Spirit; (2) spoke in different tongues; (3) given a share in the renewal of the face of the earth; and (4) received spiritual gifts as a manifestation of the Spirit. Then Jesus stood in their midst and gifted: (1) peace; (2) showed his hands and his side; and (3) sent them to forgive sins.

This is the divine theme. This is the theme we are given to imitate because we first find it in God.

This Pentecost may we take a thematic view of our lives and model it on the divine theme. Don't judge yourself! That is not what I mean. Note scripture says: "For there is no righteous man on earth who does good and sins not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

Rather be deliberate about the themes of your life. You pick sports teams, color schemes and clothing styles? Look to your most foundational theme for your Joy. Drink of one Spirit. Pleasing to him be your theme; for you will be glad in the LORD"

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry