

Pentecost Sunday / "A Good Thing or a God Thing?"
Year A, Deut. 11:18- 26, 28, Roman 3:21-25, Matthew 7:21-27

As we go through life, it usually doesn't take long before we start moving out of a **SENSE OF SELF-AWARENESS** to a **SENSE OF WORLD AWARENESS**. Especially when we reach the stage of independence as Young Adults – that's usually a defining marker along life's journey whereby *we go on to live in the day-to-day reality of life's demands*, however, we do so **INSPIRED** by a new level of motivation for doing what we do on a daily basis by means of **visualizing and thinking about all 'THE GOOD THINGS'** that a life inspired by an awakened sense of World Awareness stands to offer.

Here's what I mean by that: it's a '**GOOD THING**' to have a fire burning inside of one's heart for pursuing further Education – so that some day, you can take care of your family, your loved ones, and even potentially **make a difference in the world** for '**THE GOOD.**' It's a **GOOD THING** to work hard in order to acquire some land, buy a house, your dream vehicle, and the list goes on and on.

But there's ANOTHER LEVEL – a **HEIGHTENED SENSE OF BEING** – that we're meant to attain when it comes to **developing as human beings** in the area of **SELF AWARENESS** and it's a level of Understanding that comes upon us when **WE LIVE A LIFE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**. For while there's Virtue in living a life seeking out the experience of **GOOD THINGS** among creation, acquiring these things still leaves an empty space inside of us whereby *we don't REALLY feel complete*, we kind of feel unfulfilled and so we set our focus on going after **THE NEXT GOOD THING** that lies somewhere in the distant horizon.

There's only one kind of experience in life that **SATISFIES THE HUNGER FOR FULFILLMENT IN EVERY HUMAN HEART** and that experience is called a '**God Thing...**' And so the question for us is: "Are we able to discern between **GOOD THINGS** and '**God Things**' in life?"

Cause here's the difference: **GOOD THINGS** will always be there for the taking of all who develop a keen sense of World Awareness. But '**God things...**' now that's a whole other story! For '**God Things**' are moments in History that pass by and *either we were part of them* or *we missed out on them and there's no going back...*

A father physically present on the day of his child's birth – that's a '**God Thing...**'

Families coming together to celebrate birthdays – '**God Thing...**'

Mom and dad present and rejoicing on their children's wedding day – that's a '**God Thing...**'

Children physically present at the bedside of their parents passing from this life and breathing out their last breath – a '**God Thing...**'

Being present at the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost** – a GIFT from our Resurrected Lord made available to all through the **Sacrament of Confirmation** – allowing for the **SEVENFOLD GIFTS OF GRACE** to shape, mould, and influence our lives: A HUGE '**God Thing!!!**'

We who have passed through the waters of **REBIRTH IN BAPTISM**, we have to be ever so careful not to confuse making our way through life seeking to acquire tons of **GOOD THINGS** because Worldly Awareness has a way of blinding us, distracting us from seeing what's Truly Essential in Life: Being **PRESENT** and **SHARING** in the **ONE TIME PASSING OPPORTUNITIES** of the '**God Things...**'

An **Old Blue Whale** and a **YOUNG GREAT WHITE SHARK** found themselves swimming next to each other when suddenly, the **YOUNG GREAT WHITE SHARK** broke the silence: "**Mr. Blue Whale, you're so much older than I, and wiser too. Could you tell me where the ocean is?**"

"**Are you serious? The Ocean???** That's what you're swimming in **RIGHT NOW!**"

The **YOUNG GREAT WHITE SHARK** simply wouldn't believe it: "**COME ON!** All the while growing up I heard about the Immensity, the Excitement, the Dangers of the Ocean World – there's no way that we're in the

Ocean right now cause *all this swimming around is SO BORING* – so please tell me Mr. Blue Whale where I can find it."

"The Ocean is here – NOW – and you're in it..."

TIRED OF THE CONVERSATION that was obviously going nowhere, the GREAT WHITE SHARK swam away unconvinced and *MORE EAGER THAN EVER TO FIND THE OCEAN* because after all, he was now motivated by a New Purpose: to **prove an Old Blue Whale WRONG...**

How many people do we know out there – then again – how many of us here today actually spend our days, our weeks and months **looking for God Moments** and the PROMISED KINGDOM OF HEAVEN as if that's some kind of dimension that's completely cut off and separate from every waking moment of our existence on earth? How many people are like that YOUNG GREAT WHITE SHARK?

“All the while growing up I heard about God and the Angels, of Eternal Life and the existence of the Kingdom of Heaven – there's no way that we're in the midst of all of that cause LOOK at the NEWS! All the *Horrors and Crazy things going on in this world... much of it is not even a 'good thing', never mind a 'God Thing...'* – so please tell me Mr. Blue Whale where I can find GOD, THE ANGELS, ETERNAL LIFE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?”

God *so loved the world* that he sent his only Son so that whoever believes in Him may have Eternal Life and among the many things Jesus Christ taught those who believe in him, is the following:

"The Kingdom of Heaven IS here – NOW – and you're in it..."

PENTECOST... today, not last week, not next week but **THIS VERY MOMENT THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING** gathered in this church marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout the cosmos – the Day of Creation's RE-CREATION!

A **'God Thing' of unfathomable proportions** that stands before us as a serious reminder that while just LIFE ITSELF is a Miracle – in Christ, we are called to embrace a HEIGHTENED SENSE OF LIVING IN THIS WORLD with the assistance of the Holy Spirit helping us walk the path that leads to the **Gateway of Heaven**. We must become proficient in discerning between **GOOD THINGS OF THIS WORLD** and **God Things** happening in the moment of **NOW!**

And speaking of **God Things** happening now, blessed are we at St. Peter's to be living in the time in which we find ourselves. For it was 40 years ago this year when A FEW PRACTICING CATHOLICS responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit at work in this part of the city – Silver Springs back then was the edge of civilization – and in this place, a few people laid down a brick-and-mortar foundation that formed St. Peter's:

“A PORTHOLE for Heaven's Graces to come upon earth and nourish well over 2000 registered parish families, seven schools and thousands of other Catholics in our area.”

On this Feast Day of Pentecost, whereby the Holy Spirit is poured out over us in order to send us on MISSION – the **MISSION of Building up the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth**, Father Jonathan and are extending a huge thank you to all of you families out there that have pledged your FIVE-YEAR DONATION SUPPORT towards the **Rock of Our Faith Campaign**. At one and the same time, we would like to extend AN INVITATION to all the other families that have yet to contribute to what is proving to be **a HUGE 'GOD-THING' unfolding before us.**

We need your Financial Assistance cause by the time Phase 1 and Phase 2 reach completion – with an up and coming **New Parking Lot** complete with **Lighting** and a **Renovated Landscape** that will include a **Marian Grotto** for young families to enjoy, we will be sitting around the \$4 million Investment Mark.

PLEASE prayerfully consider contributing to the Rock of Our Faith Campaign and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit at work among us. For this year marks **ST. PETER'S 40TH YEAR**

ANNIVERSARY, and in the Bible, the number 40 stands to represent a **GREAT NUMBER OF GOD MOMENTS**: Moses went without food or water for 40 days before receiving the 10 Commandments, Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the desert following his baptism, Israel spent 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land...

There's no such thing as 'coincidences' when it comes to recognizing '**GOD MOMENTS**' at work among us.

TRUTH BE TOLD, the exponential growth that St. Peter's has experienced over the last few years, is a sure sign that we are entering into our **OWN VERSION OF THE PROMISED LAND!** For the **Promised Land** is all about a place where people can experience God, walk with God, and live with God.

As is made evident in the Eucharist we are about to share this day, *in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation into the hearts of those who are going to be Confirmed this day*, the Kingdom of Heaven is here – **NOW** – and St. Peter's is undergoing a HUGE 'GOD-THING'.

We invite all of you to become part of this EXCITING TIME.

For **what we choose to do on earth** – *echoes into Eternity...*