



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

When I was young (think 1940's and early 1950's!!) the California community where I lived found the weekends of May to be a great time for local parades and festivities.

At our local parish, Church life had its parades and processions, too - focused on Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Those years were before the Vatican II renewals of the liturgical year. "Stand-alone" Holy Days were how we celebrated things. Like our local civic events, we had really big celebrations and then things were over. In the Church, springtime gave us three special opportunities: Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. At our parish each was a *blast*, and then it was over.

Vatican Council II changed our perception of key events in the life of the Church. Instead of seeing Easter, Ascension and Pentecost as three separate events to be celebrated by themselves, we began to see them as part of a whole: a unified *season* of Easter to Pentecost. The unifying theme was the movement from realization of Christ's resurrected life to awareness of the presence of Christ's resurrected life within all the members of the community through Christ's Spirit dwelling in them.

In this year of 2023, we are seeing a further awareness of Christ's Spirit alive and working within those who believe. Pope Francis is calling the Church to put the presence and gifts of the Spirit in each of us at the service of all. Through a process called synodality we are being called to participate in the ongoing development of the Church and its ministries.

A giant step in this process has been the recent **inclusion of all members of the Church: single and married; lay, religious and ordained; women and men.**

What is happening is not unlike pregnancy/gestation: the seed becomes viable and develops into a fully functioning being. The seed of the Spirit of Christ in believers is right now taking a giant leap into full functioning. Easter to Pentecost is developing a greater life from its Christ-potential.

It's an added blessing that we also celebrate Mother's Day at this time. Our mothers know what gestation/pregnancy and growth are all about: and *now* the Church is including them (and us) in the most important processes and developments the Faithful have witnessed since the first Easter-Pentecost Season.

My home town had a great way of celebrating special events with parades and celebrations. This week let's get on the bandwagon and celebrate Church-on-the-move as we witness and become part of the new life being given birth through the SYNOD process... with the inspiration and help of the mothers in our midst.

(PLEASE READ the accompanying insert on SYNOD. Thank you!)

Peace,
Deacon Ross