

'Not only does the Holy Spirit make us capable of hoping, but also to be sowers of hope'

Rome, May 31, 2017. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In the imminence of the Solemnity of Pentecost, we cannot but speak of the relation there is between Christian hope and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the wind that drives us on, that keeps us on the way, makes us feel ourselves pilgrims and strangers, and does not permit us to ensconce ourselves and to become a "sedentary" people.

The Letter to the Hebrews compares hope to an anchor (Cf. 6:18-19); and to this image we can add that of the sail. If the anchor is what gives the boat security and keeps it "anchored" between the waves of the sea, the sail, instead, is what makes it go and advance on the waters. Hope is truly like a sail; it receives the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into the driving force that pushes the boat, depending on the circumstances, to the open sea or to the shore.

The Apostle Paul ends his Letter to the Romans with this wish: hear well, listen well to this beautiful wish: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (15:13). Let us reflect a bit on the content of this very beautiful word.

The expression "*God of hope*" does not only mean that God is the object of our hope, namely Him that we hope to reach one day in eternal life. It also means that God is He that already now makes us hope, rather, He makes us "rejoice in hope" (*Romans* 12:12): rejoicing now in hope, and not only hoping to rejoice. It is the joy of hoping, now today, and not hoping to have joy. "While there is life, there is hope," states a popular saying. And the contrary is also true: while there is hope, there is life. Men have need of hope to live and they have need of the Holy Spirit to hope.

We heard Saint Paul, who attributes to the Holy Spirit the capacity to make us even "*abound in hope*." To abound in hope means never to be discouraged; it means to hope "against all hope" (*Romans* 4:18), namely, to hope also when every human motive for hope fails, as it was for Abraham, when God asked him to sacrifice to Him his only son, Isaac, and as it was, even more so, for the Virgin Mary under Jesus' cross.

The Holy Spirit makes this invincible hope possible, giving us the interior testimony that we are children of God and His heirs (Cf. *Romans* 8:16). How could He who gave us His only Son not give us everything else together with Him? (Cf. *Romans* 8:32). "Hope — brothers and sisters — does not disappoint: hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (*Romans* 5:5). Therefore, it does not disappoint, because the Holy Spirit is within us who pushes us to go on, always! And because of this, hope does not disappoint.

There is more: not only does the Holy Spirit make us capable of hoping, but also to be *sowers of hope*, to be also — like Him and thanks to Him — "*paracletes*," namely consolers and defenders of brothers, sowers of hope. A Christian can sow bitterness, he can sow perplexity, and this is not Christian, and one who does this is not a good Christian. He sows hope: he sows the oil of hope; he sows the perfume of hope and not the vinegar of bitterness and despair. In one of his addresses, Blessed Cardinal Newman said to the faithful: "Instructed by our own suffering, by our own pain, even by our own sins, we will have the mind and the heart exercised in every work of love towards those who have need of it. In the measure of our capacity, we will be consolers in the image of the Paraclete, and in all the senses that this word entails: advocates, assistants, comfort bearers. Our words and our advice, our way of being, our voice, our look, will be gentle and tranquilizing" (*Parochial and Plain Sermons*, vol. V, London, 1870, pp. 300f.). And it is above all the poor, the excluded, the unloved that are in need of someone who will be a "paraclete" to them, namely, a consoler and defender, as the Holy Spirit is with every one of us, who are here in the Square — consoler and defender. We must do the same with the neediest, with the most rejected, with those who have greatest need, those who suffer most — defenders and consolers!

The Holy Spirit nourishes hope not only in men's heart, but also *in the whole of Creation*. The Apostle Paul says — this seems a bit strange, but it is true: that Creation also "waits with eager longing" to be set free and "groaning in travail" as the pangs of birth (Cf. *Romans* 8:20-22). "The energy capable of moving the world is not an anonymous and blind force, but the action of the Spirit of God 'moving over the face of the waters' (*Genesis* 1:2) at the beginning of Creation" (Benedict XVI, *Homily*, May 31, 2009). This also drives us to respect Creation: a painting cannot be besmirched without offending the artist who created it.

Brothers and sisters, may the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, which is the birthday of the Church, find us in accord in prayer with Mary, Jesus' Mother and ours. And may the gift of the Holy Spirit make us abound in hope. I will say more to you: may it make us fritter away hope with all those who are most in need, most rejected and all those that have need. Thank you.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE, Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Acts 2:1-11(63A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 104:1,24,29-30,31,34

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13

Gospel:

John 20:19-23

Lectionary Readings for Week of June 4, 2017

Monday: Tobit 1:3; 2:1b-8;

Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday: Tobit 2:9-14;

Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday: Tobit 3:P1-11a,16-17a;

Mark 12:18-27

Thursday: Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde,
9-17; 8:4-9a; Mark 12:28-34

Friday: Tobit 11:5-17;

Mark 12:35-37

Saturday: Tobit 12:1,5-15,20;

Mark 12:38-44

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM, **CCD:** No Class at this time

RCIA: Contact Deacon Joe 843 743-8779

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals: By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, **E-Mail** stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father** 803 341-5933

Pentecost Sunday June 4th, 2017

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

Vision Statement

*Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ,
we strive to be active disciples, serving each
other and all God's people by welcoming and
embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.*



When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves. Acts 2:1-4



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligon
 Joe Fulmer
 Jean Schodowski

“Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him.” Bishop of Bismarck ND



Pastoral Council:
 Marge Glauser,
 Chairperson
 Janet Menefee,
 Vice Chair
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Joan Hesik
 Gregory Wright
 Patricia Hayes
 Matt Fitzpatrick

Finance Council:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors
 Lisa Solenberger,
 Secretary
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM Mass is said for the 80th birthday of Dick Griffis from Nancy, 7:00 & 11:00 AM Mass are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
May 28, 2017

Collected \$1,846.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Short \$766.00

Attendance 118
Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 193 BB
Creator Spirit by Whose Aid
Asperges Choir 934 BB
Water of Life
Pentecost Sequence # 91 M Missalette, page 203
Come, O Holy Spirit (All verses) (Melody: Ode to Joy)
The Offertory Hymn is 446 BB
Come, Holy Ghost
The Communion Hymn is Choir 445 BB
By the Waking of Our Hearts
Our Song of Praise is 373 BB
Tell the Good News



	Lay Ministers	Saturday June 10	Sunday June 11	Sunday June 11
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers:		Pam Ziomek	Roger Gelinas	Jackie Brown
		Saturday June 17	Sunday June 18	Sunday June 18
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Linda Cooper	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Sheila Wagner
E E Ministers:		Ellen Heim	Gerard L'Esperance	Mary Rose
Refreshments June 4	Refreshment June 11	Refreshments June 18		
Sheila Wagner/Matt Fitzpatrick	Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key	Patricia Hayes/Joan Lacombe		

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass



Finance Council Meeting June 13th at 5:00 PM
 Fall Festival Meeting June 13th 6:00 PM
 Parish Council Meeting June 13th at 7:00 PM

The Diocese of Charleston has begun to prepare for our Bicentennial in 2020 when we will honor 200 years of remarkable witness to the Gospel. Bishop Guglielmone is inviting all parishioners to help frame our shared future through a brief online survey. To provide input, go to: The English survey link
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharlestonMAP>
The Spanish survey link - <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Encuesta>
Charleston Please complete by June 25th.



The Saint Gerard's Men's Group and Women's Group will meet this Monday, June 5 at 7 PM in the church hall for light refreshments and fellowship. This month's featured program will be a presentation on Saint Gerard's history. We hope to see you there.

Volunteer Corner:
Thanks Ron and Payson

If you know of someone that needs The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.

Planning has begun for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival.

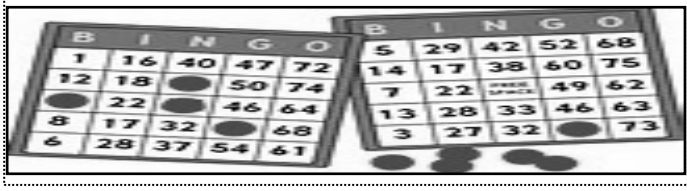
Although it is scheduled for October 14, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. There are many aspects of the event, all of which need volunteers and people to take the lead. Please consider participating or leading one of the following ways: Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Bowman Francis Ministry team would like to invite you to the fourteen annual Black Catholic Men's conference in Miami Florida October 5-7. This conference invitation is extended to all males and youth males 10-17 years of age. Come to the conference and be blessed to be the best youth you can be in the church, community and world. If you have any concerns you can reach me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at bowmanfrancisministry.com

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.
http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference

BINGO Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM 5 Cards \$ 10.00. Each Additional Card \$2.00
15 Regular Games \$20 Payout
1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout



No Smart Phone... No Problem! Call 1 (712) 832-2674

During our visits around the diocese, many have said, "I don't have a smartphone so I can't use the TuneIn app to listen to Catholic Radio." Well, there's a NEW way to listen to Catholic Radio in South Carolina and you can use a standard cell or land line to listen. Just dial 1 (712) 832-2674 (Powered by AudioNow.com), and your phone becomes a personal Catholic Radio listening device. There is no extra charge for this service but your normal call rates and limits do apply. BUT, as many plans have unlimited long distance or calling, you can essentially listen on your standard phone for free. Check your calling plan to be sure. Also, if you have friends and relatives who might enjoy listening to Catholic Radio on their standard phone, please pass the number on. Note: Smartphone users can still listen to our broadcast via TuneIn Radio – a FREE app for smart phones and app-based devices. After downloading the app, using the app's browse function, key in "wcki" and our logo will come up. Tap on our logo and the audio feed will play. Then you can save WCKI as a favorite station so that it is easier to access.

There will be a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend on the following dates: St. Andrew, Clemson on July 29-30, St. Michael, Murrell's Inlet on October 7-8, and All Saints, Lake Wylie on November 11-12. Please see the web site at: www.cce-sc.org for more information and to register.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats bring spiritual healing and strengthening of faith to individuals who have had or participated in an abortion. The retreat is a journey to healing, peace and reconciliation. July 7-9, 2017 in Charleston, SC For information and registration call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010 or grace4healing@gmail.com, rachelvineyard.org

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one is in Aiken Regional Hospital (ARMC) please let St Gerards know. Remember - ARMC does not inform us of Catholic patients, even if you register as a Catholic; it is up to the patient or family to do so. You can: ask the ARMC Chaplain to call the Catholic church, ask your nurse to inform the Catholic church (name & room number), call-St.Gerard at 649-3203 and leave a message or email St Gerard at: stgerardscatholi@atlanticbnn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligon and Robert McHugh. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.