



THE PASTOR'S POST

DRUNK?

Dear Parish Family:

“They have had too much new wine” (Acts 2:12).

This is the reaction of those hearing Peter speak in the first reading. This is when Peter speaks and all can understand him regardless of the language they regularly speak. Somehow, somehow, they understand and they respond. Yet for others who don't seem to understand, they accuse everyone of drinking too much!

I cannot help but think of our parish when I pray with these readings. I think of the great efforts made to provide meetings and information in various languages. I consider the efforts to support parents and grandparents in our school and parish who are learning to speak English. I admire and appreciate the incredible work that goes into ministering to all who come to Parish Outreach as we try to meet others where they are, even with language. I think of the incredible bilingual and multicultural liturgies and excited that we have more of them. Like you, I am in awe of the development of our multicultural choir - wow! I feel like the early apostles, we try to “speak in different tongues,* as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim” (Acts 1:4).

And to be honest, this proclamation is not about different languages, it is about the Gospel and our mission as Church to proclaim in whatever and however we can. It is not easy work. It requires love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those fruits of the Holy Spirit can be tough to live out. Even more of a reason to pray for the Holy Spirit in these days.

So helping someone to learn a new language can be challenging. Ask some of our ESL teachers! Trying to understand another language requires great patience. Listening to another language while reading words in a language we cannot totally understand is a real act of offering for the good of the community. Singing a song in a different language is not easy but what a gift to offer to God in the midst of the assembly. These actions that we take, particularly here at St. Brigid's, again, are not about language, they are

about the Gospel we are called to preach in this time and place.

To be honest, since I came to Saint Brigid's nearly four years ago, I have worked hard to provide these experiences of different languages and have fostered and encouraged it - and even pushed with both feet - because I believe this must be a mission of our parish. We are called to meet one another where we can, as best we can, and to try to walk together in this life and hopefully accompany one another to heaven. Does it involve sacrifice? You bet! Easy? No way. Will we be better because of it? I have no doubt.

I have been accused of being “drunk” (not literally) over the past few years. A number of parents have removed their children from faith formation because “I do not want my son to hear another language other than English. They do not do this stuff at (other parish name here)” (a direct quote from one). Another parishioner posted that I favor “the north of the parish” because I speak in Spanish and English at some events. Some members of our Hispanic community have questioned why English or other languages are necessary at some of these liturgies that used to be in Spanish alone. Others have said “I have ruined the parish” (direct quote) because of the inclusion and languages in the school and parish.

Without knowing anyone's heart, I fear that language might just be an easy excuse to avoid the encounter the Gospel requires of each of us. Can it be true that in some areas of our lives - maybe because of language or because of political views or comparisons with our own journey or accent or skin color - we would prefer to stay in our “locked room” like the disciples in the first reading and the Gospel? It is safer there. We can be around people who know the same experiences we do. It is easier.

But listen to the readings of Pentecost. This is not the mission of the Church. Peter goes out to speak to others who understand in different languages. He does not stay in the locked room. Consider the disciples in the Gospel. It takes them some time but eventually they take leave of the locked room to go out to preach mercy and

EL POST DEL PARROCO

DRUNK/¿BORRACHO?

compassion and respond to Jesus' mission to preach the Gospel to the entire world. We must do the same.

Good news! We do this part in the same language - the language of love! Maybe we can work harder to start at the place. Am I doing all that I can to respond to Jesus' command to "love one another"? Or, at times, do I allow some of my own biases and frustrations to prevent me from the encounter, regardless of the spoken language?

Maybe this week, inspired and, yes, challenged by the Holy Spirit, can we ask this same Spirit to open our hearts even more? The Spirit is good for

this. The Holy Spirit can help us to see where we are closed off and maybe where we have to open up more. Again, this is not so much about a spoken language. It is about the encounter of the Gospel.

So maybe they will accuse you of being drunk too. Don't be ashamed. It's a sign that like Peter you're doing it right. Let's just keep preaching - maybe with our tongues and spoken language, sure. But most importantly with our hearts.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

Featherman



Estimada familia parroquial:

«Han bebido demasiado vino nuevo» (Hechos 2:12).

Esta es la reacción de quienes escuchan hablar a Pedro en la primera lectura. Es el momento en que Pedro habla y todos pueden entenderlo, independientemente del idioma que hablen habitualmente. De alguna manera, lo comprenden y responden. Sin embargo, otros que parecen no entenderlo, ¡acusan a todos de haber bebido demasiado!

No puedo evitar pensar en nuestra parroquia cuando rezo con estas lecturas. Pienso en el gran esfuerzo que se hace para ofrecer reuniones e información en varios idiomas. Pienso en los esfuerzos por apoyar a los padres y abuelos de nuestra escuela y parroquia que están aprendiendo a hablar inglés. Admiro y agradezco el increíble trabajo que supone atender a todos los que acuden a «Parish Outreach», mientras intentamos acercarnos a los demás tal como son, incluso en lo que respecta al idioma. Pienso en las

increíbles liturgias bilingües y multiculturales y me emociona que tengamos más de ellas. Al igual que ustedes, estoy asombrado por el desarrollo de nuestro coro multicultural —¡guau! Me siento como los primeros apóstoles, intentamos «hablar en diferentes lenguas,* tal como el Espíritu les permitió proclamar» (Hechos 1:4).

Y, para ser sinceros, esta proclamación no se trata de los diferentes idiomas, sino del Evangelio y de nuestra misión como Iglesia de anunciarlo de cualquier forma y de cualquier manera que podamos. No es una tarea fácil. Requiere amor, alegría, paz, paciencia, amabilidad, bondad, fidelidad, mansedumbre y dominio propio. Esos frutos del Espíritu Santo pueden ser difíciles de poner en práctica. Razón de más para orar por el Espíritu Santo en estos días.

Por eso, ayudar a alguien a aprender un nuevo idioma puede ser todo un reto. ¡Pregúntale a algunos de nuestros profesores de inglés como segunda lengua! Intentar comprender otro idioma requiere mucha paciencia. Escuchar otro

