

**THROUGH WORDS AND DEEDS
WE ARE ALL CALLED TO PROTECT OUR PLANET**

“And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:2-4)

The first reading for Pentecost Sunday is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. It describes the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, and symbolically challenges all of us to find a common language in order to effectively communicate with one another.

This weekend we celebrate World Environment Day (WED), an event that occurs annually on June 5th. WED is the United Nation's principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution and global warming to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. WED has grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with annual participation from over 143 countries. Each year, WED has a new theme that major corporations, NGOs, communities, and governments adopt to advocate environmental causes. The WED theme for 2017 is:

“Connecting People to nature – in the city and on the land, from the poles to the equator.”

In his Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reminds us that attention to climate change and care for the environment involve both a modern day communication challenge and a behavioral shift that we are called to address. Regardless of the enormity of the issue, the plethora of alternative facts and misinformation on this topic, and the lack of consistent political leadership around the crisis, we as God's children have the responsibility to seek out common ground for connecting with others about our pressing climate crisis. We are also challenged to lead by example in our own lives and daily actions.

As part of St. Teresa's ongoing commitment to environmental protection, we are once again hosting an environmentally-themed liturgy at this Sunday's 10 AM Mass, followed by a zero waste hospitality event in the Parish Hall. Please join us as we proclaim in song and spoken word our collective understanding and commitment around the climate crisis and our pledge to be visible and vocal in our response to it. After Mass, we welcome you to join us as community, to socialize and learn more about what the parish is doing to lead by example (through lighting, water and green power upgrades), and by demonstrating in actions what words might fail to convey.

On this Pentecost Sunday, Pope Francis invites each of us to consider our words and deeds and challenges us to find a common language to engage with our fellow human beings. We do this in order to provide for the health and well being of our planet for generations to come.

*Stephen Miller, Gail Kendall, & Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.
(for St. Teresa's Green Team)*

<http://stteresasf.org/parish-ministries/green-team-2>