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UPCOMING  
ISSUE:

- DEACON DENNIS GILLAN ORDINATION

# The Shining Son

THE SHINING SON

JUNE 2012

## The Celebration of Pentecost

By: Deacon Vince Slomian



Dear TECites,  
On our TEC weekends, we celebrate Saturday as "Good Friday," the dying of Christ on the cross.

On Sunday, we celebrate "Easter Sunday," the Rising of Christ.

Then, on Monday, we celebrate Pentecost, or the Rising of Christ.

We just finished the Easter season and celebrated Pentecost Sunday.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, (Acts 2:1-11), "all the

apostles were gathered in an upstairs room (as we do in our chapel), 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 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.

"Now there were

devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in

Jerusalem.

"At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

"They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,

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## Fellow TECite Ordained a Priest

Ordained as a Dominican priest on May 25, 2012, Father Michael (Kevin) O'Connor, OP, is one of the few Peterstown TECites to vow to dedicate his life to Christ through Holy Orders this spring.

Father Michael, the oldest of three sons and raised by Dan and

Verene O'Connor, attended St. Joseph Parish in Peru and is a graduate of St. Bede Academy.

"I was raised Catholic and started thinking about being a priest when I was a young boy," Father Michael wrote for his Dominican Community's website in 2006.

"I grew up in a Benedictine parish and attended the high school that the order ran, after which I decided to enter a college seminary, studying for the Benedictines."

Earning a degree in Music Performance and Philosophy, Father Michael completed his

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# Workshop Offered in Springfield



The TEC Conference, with the support and hosting of the Springfield TEC Community, is co-sponsoring a “Communities of Faith and Follow Through” workshop August 24-26 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Springfield.

The purpose of the workshop, which is designed in a “retreat” format, is to empower

TEC leaders to become *reflective* and *discerning* leaders, not just doing leaders and to reflect on the theology behind TEC and the important role the adult faith community has in the Movement.

The workshop will also provide opportunities to share post-TEC weekend follow through and foster a collaborative relationship within and between dioceses and TEC Centers.

People who seek a deeper formation and understanding in effectively mentoring youth and young adults through the TEC process as well as TEC leaders/core teams who wish to

strengthen their local faith communities, and parish/diocesan leaders and TEC spiritual directors who provide ongoing faith formation are encouraged to attend.

Cost for the workshop, which includes registration, materials, and food, is \$95 per person.

Lodging can be arranged by calling 217-753-2636 for \$72 a night. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Springfield and deadline is Aug. 17.

For more information, contact Kyle Holtgrave at 217-622-4994 or by email at [KHoltgrave@dio.org](mailto:KHoltgrave@dio.org).

Last month, we introduced Karen Mecagni as the new Lay Director. Here she is pictured with her “team” of helpers.

Picture (front row left to right) are Nanette Gillan, Kathy Hoscheid, Karen Mecagni, Verene O’Connor; (back row) Jim Hoscheid, Dennis Gillan, and Dan O’Connor.



# We Are ‘Filled with the Spirit’

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‘Are not all of these people who are speaking, Galileans?’

Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? Yet we hear them speaking our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

We came from all over the Illinois Valley area and beyond. Some from different dioceses, and some from different countries, yet we all heard the same message.

Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples on the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowers each of us with different gifts.

Even more, St. Paul says that to each of us the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

So, what is the benefit? What is the Spirit empowering us to do or to be?

Might it be to proclaim the mighty acts of God in our lives? If we look we can surely find something special God has done in our lives.

Could it be to do some service for others? It might be that someone in our family or our neighborhood needs some help or attention.

Could it be that we need to make a change in our life? Perhaps we need to set aside some time to think about what the Spirit is asking of us right now.

We know that Jesus promised the disciples that He would send the Spirit to them and that Spirit would be with them and would guide them to all

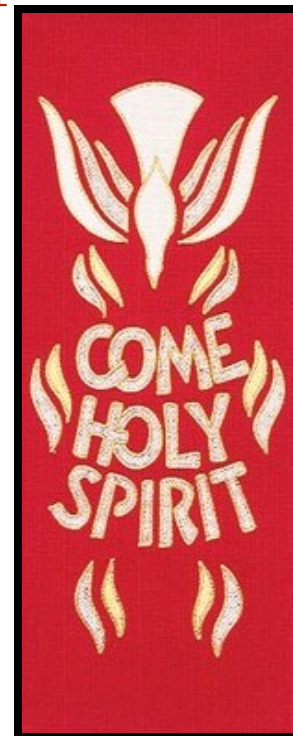
truth.

That holds true for us too. The Spirit is with us – with all of us, and even more so if we have received the Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Like the disciples, we, too, are filled with the SPIRIT, and are called to bear witness to that Spirit.

Maybe what we need to do most is to pray to that Spirit, to ask for the knowledge to know what we are individually called to do.

Have a very joyful and prayerful summer.



## Clip and Save

### Important Dates

Please make sure to mark your calendar so that you don't miss out on all the fun we have at the TEC Hilton, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The following are the important dates:

- + **July 10:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.
- + **July 28:** TEC Reboost 1-5p.m.
- + **Aug. 14:** Spiritual Core Team Meeting 6:30p.m.

**PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!**

*“You are  
a priest  
forever  
after the  
order of  
Melchizedek”*

— Psalm 110:4

For more information on The Order of Preachers, “O.P.” also known as the Dominicans, founded by St. Dominic de Guzman, please contact:

Rev. Benedict Croell, OP  
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<http://orderofpreachersvocations.blogspot.com/>  
<http://dominicanblog.com>

## TECite Attracted to Dominicans



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undergraduate studies at St. Mary’s University in Winona, MN, while living at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary.

Soon after, he entered the monastery, only to discern that God was not calling him to be Benedictine.

He then worked as an organist, music director, and music teacher, while still seeking out the will of God in his life.

“During this time, I began to learn about the Dominican Way of Life and was very attracted to the combination of their contemplative and active lives, as well as to the charism of preaching and teaching Veritas,” Father Michael wrote.

“As I learned more

about the order, I was very drawn to the lives of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena and Bl. Fra Angelico. I found in their lives a compelling model of holiness that I felt called to imitate and follow after.”

In 2006, Father Michael entered the Dominican Order at St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati, OH, taking the religious name Michael Dominic.

Over the next few years, Father Michael lived at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC, where he was assigned to various ministries including giving tours at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, working at the Northwest Pregnancy Center, and assisting at the American University Catholic Chaplaincy. He also earned his Master of Divinity and his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degrees.

On November 13, 2010, Father Michael professed his solemn vows and served at St.

John the Beloved Parish in McLean, VA, as a deacon.

He writes, “The greatest single inspiration for my life is the Servant of God: Pope John Paul II.

“It has been the example of his life and the spiritual fatherhood that he offered to the youth of the world that has captured my heart and has continually inspired me to ‘be not afraid’ and to ‘put out into the deep.’”

Following his ordination, Father Michael will continue to pursue his License in Sacred Theology at the Dominican House of Studies.



**Dan and Verene O’Connor attend the priestly ordination of their son, Father Michael Dominic O’Connor.**

# How the Holy Spirit Works

There is a phrase that we hear repeatedly in the New Testament, namely, acting under the “power” (Acts 1:8) of the Holy Spirit.

Now, many of us (may) wonder quite HOW that works – how do you get the Holy Spirit’s power to work in you?

Also, we might wonder what it LOOKS like to have the power of the Holy Spirit at work in someone.

One of the titles of Our Lady is “Spouse of the Holy Spirit,” a title that indicates that she has a unique relationship with Him.

He is referred to at the Annunciation when the Archangel Gabriel told Our Lady that she would conceive not in the normal way but when “the Holy Spirit will come upon you” (Lk 1:35).

He is referred to again when Our Lady then goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth while they were both pregnant, she with the Lord Jesus and Elizabeth with John the

Baptist.

At the greeting of the Blessed Virgin “Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” and she said that “the babe in my womb leapt for joy” (Lk 1:41;44), so that John the Baptist is said to have been

*“When we are proud we are unable to listen to others.”*

filled with the Spirit even before he was born.

But it is perhaps in the next thing that happened we see something most relevant shown forth: Our Lady then burst out into the beautiful “Magnificat” (Lk 1:46-55) in which she declared the praise of God for what He was doing, in particular that He had “cast down the mighty” (Lk 1:52) and raised up the lowly.

This is relevant in two ways: first, her bursting forth into this hymn of praise was itself an action of the Holy Spirit within her;

and second, the words she said indicated why SHE was suitable for the Spirit to act in her: namely, she was lowly and humble herself.

When we are proud we are unable to listen to others.

When we are mighty and content with our state we struggle to turn to others for aid.

In either case we are not suitably disposed to let the Holy Spirit be at work in us – we can’t really hear His promptings; and, we’re too full of our own misguided thoughts of our power to depend on HIS power. Our Lady, in contrast, was humble not proud.

Although she was doing a great thing herself, namely, being mother of the Lord, she did not ascribe this greatness to herself but rather TO GOD who had chosen her in her lowly state.

And, and as a consequence, GREAT things did happen in

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# Our Lady: Spouse of Holy Spirit

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her, and the “POWER” of the Holy Spirit was active in her.

He was active in the most every-day aspect of her life: her sinlessness.

She wasn't sinless by her own power but by the “power” of the Holy Spirit, a power she was humble enough to co-operate with.

Mary co-operated with the Spirit's power not once, not occasionally, but every moment of her existence:

from her sinless conception, in every moment of her life, such that she was exactly what the angel called her: “full of grace” (Lk 1:28).

Such a continual commitment to the Spirit is another reason it is suitable to think of her as His “spouse” – a life-long relationship.

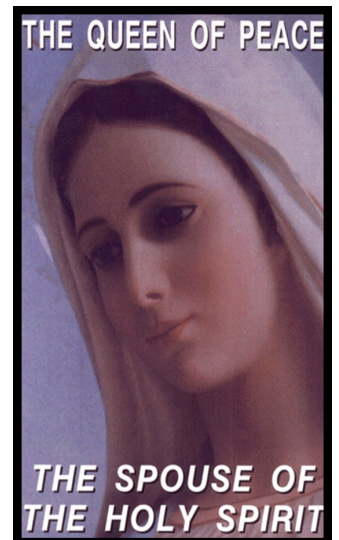
And that same Spirit also gave her strength to do what we might think would be impossible.

So, to conclude: for ourselves, if we want to have that same “power”

of the Holy Spirit in us, then we must be humble and lowly as she was humble and lowly; we must not have mistaken views of our greatness or self-power.

And if we are lowly before the Lord, (we must) call on His strength, and commit ourselves to Him as she did as His spiritual spouse, then we will allow the space in us for Him to come and come with “power.”

*Reprinted with permission by Father Dylan James, a Catholic*



*priest in Shaftesbury, England.*