



THE BEACON - VOL. 12

The glow of the Easter candle lights and warms our faces, encircles our hearts with joy as it announces the divine light of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ, is risen to life! As we enter the next fifty days of Easter, culminating with Pentecost, we are invited to share in the glorified life of the resurrected Christ who walks among us. About this sacred season, Dr. Nathan Mitchell, Professor Emeritus at Notre Dame University, writes:

“The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to ‘party on,’ even if we don’t feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply ‘the weather of the heart,’ to awaken our memory of God’s presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation.”

These words, in many ways, perfectly capture what spiritual development looks like in our lives and in our parish, St. John Neumann.

The Gallup Survey results, as noted in last month’s newsletter, show an overall improvement in every measurement of Engagement and Spiritual Commitment. In this month’s edition, we highlight how our parish encourages spiritual development, which increased from **26% in 2024 to 34% in 2025** in the “strongly agree” category. Yet, we understand that “the weather of the heart” supersedes numbers when it comes to spiritual development - in this realm, as in every part of our lives - **the Holy Spirit is in charge!**

This axiom resonates with us as we witnessed unbaptized members of our OCIA ritual process receive the Sacraments of Initiation, entering into full communion of the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil. And then again, as we listened in awe to our brothers and sisters in Christ proclaim the Profession of Faith, sealing their public commitment in their conversion to our beautiful Catholic faith. That same glow of light is still evident in their faces as in those of their sponsors, our volunteers, and our entire community.

Our own testimony of faith in the Trinity points to the Holy Spirit as the God-love shared by the Father and the Son. It is that same Holy Spirit birthing in us an awareness for a deeper relationship with God, seeking Him above all else, expressed by the profound love shared throughout our community as we grow and continue to be a “beacon

of light drawing people home". Our parish home offers abundant ways to spiritually develop our heart, soul, and mind, connecting and serving with and for love, most notably by partaking in the primacy of our worship, the Mass.



Let us prayerfully discern how we are being called by the Holy Spirit to continue to develop spiritually, to seek ways to offer our time, talents, and treasures as a blessing to our parish and to one another. Let us continue to thrive as a community committed to spiritual growth and development led by the glow of light from the presence of the Risen Christ in the world, in all of us as disciples of the Church, and in the actions of the Holy Spirit.

"I am the light of the world, whomever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12)

Happy Easter!

Your Beacon Team,

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