Welcome…my Brothers & Sisters

to today's beautiful and dynamic celebration

of the Feast of Pentecost.

This is a big red banner day.

This banner starting at our baptismal font

and ends here at the ambo and

tells us that something is super special about today.

Pentecost. What does that mean?

The word Pentecost means *fiftieth* day after Easter.

Why do we celebrate Pentecost?

It is because on that day over 2000 years ago

the Church was given its mission to go into the world,

animated by the Holy Spirit,

in order to continue the work of Jesus right here on earth.

Today we celebrate what we have been called to do.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

And I quote: "The Church was made manifest to the world

on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

End quote.

We are told that the Church is in the new presence of Jesus on earth

to do the work of bringing all mankind to salvation.

We are told that this new Jesus, the Church,
will act through the sacraments
which will be made present by celebrating liturgy.
We are also told we have a Huge helper…the Holy Spirit.
And we are all present here celebrating this liturgy.

In short: You are the people of God, the Church,
and you are now filled with the Holy Spirit
in order to make Jesus known to all the world.
So go forth and do it! Isn't that exciting?!

In our Gospel Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission.
But not just the disciples…it is given to us…present here today.
Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me so I also send you."
This means that Jesus needs the Church and the Church is All of US.
Without Jesus the Church has no message.
The Church has to be a mouth for Jesus…to speak for Jesus…
feet to run his errands…hands to do his work.

St. Paul describes our participation...
"As a body is one though it has many parts...
and all the parts of the body, though many,
are one body...so also is Christ."

We may all be different, but together
we are One Church doing the work of Jesus.

God the Father sent his Jesus to do his work.
Likewise, Jesus sends us to do both the Father's work
and his work here on earth.
This works because of obedience and love.
And this love is so strong that is generates a new wind,
A new breeze called the Holy Spirit.
When we are Church...as part of the body of Christ...
As driven by the Holy Spirit…
And doing the work of God the Father, we **are** holy.

Our readings today use symbols to describe the presence of God.
First there is the sound of a great wind from heaven...
filling the whole house.
Pneumais is the Greek word for wind...
that indicates the Spirit of God is present.
In Exodus we hear about a great wind
when Moses stretched out his hands and a strong wind divided the sea.
God is present.
A 2nd Scriptural symbol is the tongues of fire
appearing above the heads of each disciple.

This is another symbol of God's presence.

Remember God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.

God is present.

One last Scriptural symbol is Jesus' breathing on the disciples.

Breath symbolizes life.

In the Creation story God breathed

onto clay from the ground to create the 1st human being.

In the Gospel Jesus breathes on his disciples

giving them a new life in the Spirit, saying…

Receive the Holy Spirit. Live this new life.

So, the Feast of Pentecost is a yearly celebration

of the presence of God establishing a new life…

a new presence of Jesus on earth called the Church…

and giving it a new mission to go throughout the world

and bring all peoples to God.

This Pentecost is a day to reflect on the role each of us will play…

on what God wants me to do for him.

How can I…build the Kingdom of God on Earth?

We do well as Church here at St. Pius X

but I would like to challenge everyone to take a step further.

Go meet the people you feed and clothe.

Talk to the neighbor you have never met.

Do something uncomfortable with the help of the Holy Spirit.

If you really want to do something filled with the Holy Spirit,

consider attending the next Cum Christo weekend

right here at Central High.

In the Cum Christo, you will spend 72 hours of your life

in pursuit of the Holy Spirit.

I have a card from my Cursillo that says,

"Christ is counting on you."

I take that statement personally and literally.

The weekend dates are June 8-11 for the men,

and June 15-18 for the women.

I highly recommend the weekend.

You will experience what the disciples went through 2000 years ago.

This Pentecost day we pray for ourselves

and the entire Church.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Fill the hearts of the faithful

and kindle in us the fire of your Love…

and you shall renew the face of the earth.