

*Pastor's Message for May / June 2005*

*From the Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano*

*PARENTS and PENTECOST*

Parents remind us of God in so many ways. Without them, we cannot have life. They are our first experience of love. They are willing to die to rescue us. They heal us when we hurt and they rejoice as no one else does in our happiness. They give us bread at the table of life. They forgive us and they care for us as no one else will

Pentecost shows us God as a spirit of life, bringing us into spiritual birth, teaching us to love, rescuing us and healing us. Pentecost makes us a family in Christ and leads us, by grace, to the table where we learn of our identity with one another. God is a parent in Pentecost.

On Trinity Sunday, God is revealed as a family, a community, a plurality of persons. On Ascension Day, the Son of God leaves us much as a parent leaves the children to grow. Christ teaches us to be less dependent (as a parent would) and promises to be with us always in spirit and love (as a parent would), never wanting us to be orphans.

Pentecost and the adjacent feasts of Trinity Sunday and Ascension show us God as the parent we always wanted, as someone who would understand our prayer of gratitude for the parents we were given. In Pentecost, we see the motherhood and fatherhood of God. We become God's sons and daughters, God's children, God's People. What mother or father would want more for their children than that?

Peace

Anthony