

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says: "My Dad scribbles some words on a piece of paper. He calls it a poem. They give him \$50.00." The second boy says, "That nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper. He calls it a song. They give him \$100.00." The third boy says: "I've got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper. He calls it a sermon. It takes 8 people to collect all of the money."

Like many jokes, this one is not what we might expect. It has a surprise which makes us laugh.

Today's feast is called Pentecost. Another way to express it could be "Surprised by the Spirit."

The disciples were not expecting what they experienced. They were stunned, overwhelmed, and amazed. Others also were surprised. They could understand the preaching in their native language.

Do we experience surprises during the day? A visit; a letter or postcard or e-mail; a phone call; a connection while shopping, doing errands or just out for a walk. Has it ever dawned on us that the Spirit might be present in those "chance happenings?"

As we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, be aware of surprises this week. At the end of each day, reflect upon our surprises. Were we aware of the Spirit's presence?

My sisters and brothers, may our days be full of Spirit surprises!