



## Cross Catholic Outreach

**Father Ron Mrozinski will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in the United States and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.**

### Pentecost: Then & Now

In the Old Testament, Pentecost, was the feast which occurred 50 days after Passover. Then called the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks, it was one of the Jewish feast days. It is mentioned five places in the first five books: Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16. It was the celebration of the early weeks of harvest.

“In Palestine there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest.”

The date of Pentecost, according to the Old Testament, was established by counting 50 days from the beginning of the celebration of First Fruits. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

In the Old Testament, the Passover celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt and Pentecost celebrated God’s gift of the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

In the New Testament, Passover takes on its new meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection, the “exodus” of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. The Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the “new law”, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ.

The disciples received the “power from on high”, and they began to bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ and to tell others of this wherever they went; the Church was being formed. This time has been traditionally called the birthday of the Church.

[Based on [“What Is Pentecost?”](#) By Dr. Ray Pritchard, Christianity.com

*Judy Pearson*

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