

# Pentecost - Whitsunday

BY LELA BARROW

I wrote, last year, about the Church Seasons of the year, maybe I wrote about Pentecost-Whitsunday; but it won't hurt to remind you - Today November 25, 1984 is the last Sunday of this Season. The Vigil of Pentecost begins the Sunday after Ascension Day, or the Seventh Sunday after Easter. It begins with the Service of Light. "Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord." "Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins." "Blessed Lord, grant that we may learn and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever." Amen.

According to Webster Dictionary: Pentecost or Fiftieth Day—a solemn festival of the Jews, so called because celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Passion—Whitsunday which is fifty days after Easter; celebrated after Christ arose.

Pentecost—He (Jesus) breathed on them, and saith unto them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." In the early Church this feast of Pentecost rated second in importance to Easter which is first. The name comes from the Greek word for Fiftieth and originally referred to the great Feast of Weeks which fell on the 50th day after the Feast of Passover.

When the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other Disciples, waiting in the Upper Room as Christ had told them to do, and as the prophets had prophesied, Pentecost became the time when God gave the fruit of redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost has its source and beginning in God.

Saint Augustine wrote of Pentecost—"Come thou Star and Guide of them that sail in the tempestuous sea of the world; thou Haven of the ship-wrecked. Come thou Glory and Crown of the living and the Safe-guard of the dying. Come Holy Spirit in mercy and make me fit to receive thee."

There isn't too much to write about Whitsunday—sometimes it is called White Sunday. The name was given because Pentecost was a great season for christening—in which white robes were worn.

God wants us to use prayer. He wants us to use Him. Prayer is actually a line of communication, a way of understandings—God's mind and your mind. Let me walk in all humility and God's fear before all men, and in thy sight. Keep me reverent at all times. Where light is, there goodness springs up and justice and truth. The way of unity, as we have experienced is a path of illumination. The Holy Spirit sheds fresh light on old ways. Everything when once we understand is made sweeter by the Light as it shines upon you.

In England, as In America, audiences rise when choirs begin to sing the Hallelujah Chorus in the Oratoria of the Messiah. In Albert Hall, London, Victoria, the Great and the Good was seated in the royal box. The audience rose, but the noble queen remained seated. The audience stared - On rolled the magnificent chorus the queen remained seated. Loftier rose the celestial notes. Now the song reached the part where Christ is praised as "King of kings and Lord of lords." The swelling song puts the crown of universal dominion on His divine brow. Then the noble queen arose and stood with bowed head as if she would cast the crown of her mighty empire at the pierced feet of her divine Lord. Creation and revelation, song and story and all earthly rulers reach their noblest heights when they bend in lowest reverence at the feet of Jesus Christ.

I got the idea of "Reverence" from this noble queen as the story was written by McArthur. Let us give due reverence to all.



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## Social Security Records Confidential

When Social Security began collecting information on millions of workers in 1937, some doomsayers said this would lead to Federal control and regimentation of all Americans. Just over a decade later, George Orwell warned against undue Government intervention in his classic novel, 1984.

As 1984 ends, we find a still-imperfect world but the sky has not fallen. Despite the advent of television, the computer, and other technology, there is no Big Brother controlling our lives.

Early on, Social Security founders recognized people's concern about the collection of personal data. They drafted regulations that would ensure that information provided by employees, their employers, and others would remain confidential.

These regulations have been modified over the years as Social Security took on new responsibilities and in response to new laws. Those statutes include the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 as amended, the Privacy Act of 1974, the Tax Reform Act of 1976, and the Government-in-the Sunshine Act.

As a whole, these related laws open up information about Government operations and reduce secrecy. At the same time, they protect a person's right to privacy.

It might appear that the public's "right to know" under the Freedom of Information Act is in conflict with the individual's "right to privacy" under the Privacy Act, but quite the opposite is true. For example, one section of the Freedom of Information Act

exempts personal and medical files from disclosure, and the Privacy Act actually clarifies that section.

Under the Privacy Act, the Government is allowed to collect only the minimum amount of information needed for efficient and fair program administration and, where possible, directly from the person involved. The individual has the right to know what information is being collected and why, to examine such information, and to request revision of incorrect material.

Generally, Social Security will give out information only if required by law or if the individual gives permission. Information can only be given without permission in very specific situations such as:

- to determine eligibility for assistance programs, such as aid to families with dependent children, food stamps and Medicaid;
- to help locate a parent with child support obligations;
- for certain law enforcement purposes;
- to prevent fraud and abuse;
- for certain life-threatening situations and national security;
- for census, statistical, and research purposes.

More information about how we handle information is available in any Social Security office. Also a person can inspect and copy various legal, administrative, and informational publications on this subject.

## Medicare's Mass Mailing

During October, Medicare sent notices to 30 million beneficiaries about the latest changes in the Medicare Law and the fact that Medicare will now have participating doctors and suppliers. "Participating" doctors or suppliers means that they "accept assignment" on all Medicare claims. This means that they accept Medicare's approved charges as full payment on all claims. The beneficiary still must pay deductibles and coinsurance.

Beneficiaries can find out now if physicians or suppliers are participating by asking their doctor or supplier, looking for a Medicare participating sign in their doctor's or supplier's office or calling their Medicare carrier. The carrier will have a Medicare Participating Physician/Supplier Directory available after December 1, 1984. Beneficiaries will be able to see it or buy it at the Medicare carrier's office. The

directories will also be available after December 1, 1984 and can be seen at Social Security, Railroad Retirement, or Area Agency on Aging Offices, and Senior Citizens organizations.

Even though a Medicare beneficiary's physician and/or supplier does not choose to participate, the beneficiary still will have Medicare coverage and can still use the doctor or supplier of his or her choice. Medicare still pays 80% of the

approved charge after the yearly deductible is met. But the beneficiary can be billed for more than Medicare's approved charge (unless the doctor or supplier accepts assignment on the individual claim). The Law also places a freeze on doctor's Medicare charges for 15 months - July 1, 1984 to September 30, 1985 - which does not allow increases in the amount a nonparticipating doctor can charge.

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Phone (919) 244-0780,  
(919) 244-0508

**R.L. Cannon, Jr**  
Publisher &  
Business Manager

**Christine Hill**  
Office Manager

**Sharon Buck**  
Production Manager

**Edith Hodges**  
Circulation Manager

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