

Pentecost 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, during the last seven weeks we have kept the Easter Candle here by the Pulpit, burning. It has been lit every time we have celebrated mass. It is a constant reminder to us that Christ is Alive- the Light of the World. For you who have been chosen to enter into the mystery of the Living God in Jesus Christ, in Baptism, it is a sign to you. I will say to you after your Baptism: Receive the Light of Christ! It will be your duty henceforth, to keep this flame burning until Christ shall return and call you into His everlasting Glory!

By the flame of the Easter Candle we are reminded of the tongues of fire that alighted on the heads of the Apostles and Disciples and Our Holy Lady in the upper room where they had been told to stay. It is a reminder to you that Christ is alive, even in the midst of this darkness, He shines brightly and the darkness cannot overcome His Divine Light. In His resurrection, He Rose from the dead and put an end to the eternal darkness, and you who are to be Baptized and Confirmed, and all of us are reminded that just as the light of morning dispels the darkness of the night, so to, Christ dispels the darkness in our lives- the darkness of sin and the darkness of death!

When the lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle is passed on to you, newly Baptized, like the Sanctuary Candle which burns 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in front of the Blessed Sacrament, reminds us that you are now the tabernacles of Jesus Christ, the Living God in the Holy Spirit you will receive. It means that God has definitively chosen you for this time and place, for a work that He is now entrusting to you, and that only you can do. It is a reminder to each of us that we have been created for this time, we are the living thrones of God on this earth, and we are called to let Christ shine in us with the brightness of the first Pentecost, as His lights in the world; but, Christ can only do this if you allow Him to light up your life! Today, the sign of your "chosenness," is your Baptism and Confirmation. Christ chose you for this time, and now He chooses you to go out into the whole world and to proclaim the Gospel first with your life, and then also by your testimony to the great works of Christ in your life!

Today, after the Mass, we will extinguish the Easter Candle and it will only be lit for Baptisms until the next Easter Vigil. It is a reminder that each of you is to keep the light of Christ burning brightly, pillars of fire in the midst of the terrible darkness that now pervades the world. How do you do this?

To experience this burning fire of Pentecost always, means allowing Christ to continue to transform your lives. Jesus says to us: "Whoever loves me, will keep my word." All of you here have heard the silent word spoken into your hearts- do not let it be extinguished by the world around us! Become a living passion for Christ! Seek and do God's will!

The Holy Spirit is given to us precisely for this reason, to bring us into conformity with the reality Jesus has given us in our Baptism and our Confirmation and in the Holy Communion we celebrate and receive and revere in the Eucharist!

Keep the Commandments of God: in the Bible, in the Catechism of the Church, by constant prayer, by learning from the instruction of the Saints, and through the teachings of the Church. Pray always, constantly talk to the Lord, even about the least things of your life, Jesus loves you and loves to hear from you, and He will show you little by little, that every moment is filled with His Divine Presence for you. Use the Sacraments frequently, especially Confession and Holy Eucharist. Come into the Church to adore and spend time with Jesus whenever you can; He is waiting for you here. Surrender daily to the Divine Love for you in His Divine Providence- fall in love with God, daily, for He is infinitely in love with you. Be His saints, He wants you to be. Invite others to come and follow Him. Continue learning about your faith. Serve Jesus in His Church by serving others! Trust Him! Say to Him every day: Lord, I give you all, I surrender all, I abandon all to you, Who has given all, abandoned all and surrendered all for me. (Say this to Him today at the Consecration!) Don't look for fireworks, look for the steady glow of His Divine Love, all around us and in us! Do these things, and you will shine with Pentecost!