

Pentecost 2021

My beloved brothers and sisters, Pentecost Sunday concludes the Easter Season. What was begun by the Holy Spirit of God with the Annunciation at the Incarnation of the Son of God in Mary's womb as the Son of Man, is now brought to conclusion by the same Holy Spirit, when the Spirit is poured out into the Apostles, and through them, into the hearts of all the Baptized. Just like the Apostles were fully equipped to bring the Gospel, the Good News of Christ into the world by the outpouring the Third Person of the Holy Trinity; so too, we have been fully equipped to bring that same Spirit of the Living God into all our relationship and into the world that waits in darkness! Just as they received the Fire of God which lit up their lives, we too have received the same fire of God, if only we will let Him light us up as well!

In the First reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Apostles in a way that cannot be contained! The power of God to love and to save, cannot be contained, it can only be rejected by an individual who refuses to permit the Spirit to act in their lives! The Spirit of God rushed into their lives in the tangible and visible sign of fire and wind, which draws a huge crowd, which could not deny what they had just experienced. We are told that empowered with the Holy Spirit, these timid, cowardly Apostle were so emboldened that they Baptized 3000 on that first day of the Church. Within 300 years, the whole of the Roman Empire was so converted by the outpouring of the Fire of God on the early disciples, that Rome became Christian, and even the Roman emperor was baptized! The fire of the Holy Spirit spread like wildfire and was uncontainable!

In the second reading, the actions and the presence of the Spirit are His gifts at work in our lives and through those who allow it, to build us up in Holiness of life and to draw others into the same Holiness of God, into union with Him. The chief work of the Holy Spirit, is the indwelling of God within us, and where one Person of the Trinity is, there also are God the Father and God the Son. Each one of us is the New Temple of God wherein God dwells and lives, and in whom we live and move and have our being!

In the Gospel, we are reminded that the chief gift of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is our reconciliation with God. Once estranged from God, we are now united with God. God so desires this reconciliation, that Son of God, the Son of Man, Jesus breathes out the Breath that created man in the beginning in a new beginning of Grace. We are not only restored to Grace, we are being transformed by Grace and by the Divine Love into union with God that begins, even now; that is the meaning of our Holy Communion; so that, St. Iranaeus says: the Glory of God is mankind made fully alive in Jesus Christ! You are the Glory of God, and the Light of the World, so, go out and be what you are meant to be!