

## Pentecost 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, today we conclude the celebration of the Easter Season with Pentecost Sunday, with the fulfillment of the Promise of God to “Send out His Spirit over all the earth....” This is also the fulfillment of the Work of Jesus in our Redemption, when He breathed out His Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Disciples, preparing them for their mission of Evangelizing the whole world, but also, infusing them with the very life and love of God, the bond of Love between the Father and the Son. This bond of Love is so absolute, that from all of eternity, without beginning or end, it is expressed as the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. This Bond of Love now unites us within the same Loving Union found in the Trinity and equips us for the same mission of proclaiming the Good News of Salvation to the World and equipping us to live this Good News, if we allow our lives to be set on fire with His burning love!

In the first reading, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the disciples and Apostles in such a way, that it cannot be contained. It is poured out upon them in a visible way: first, in the visible fire of the Divine Love which descends upon each of them; and then in a driving force, a driving wind that drives them out into the world to begin to proclaim the Good News in such a way that everyone there is affected. We are told that over 5000 were baptized in that single event!

In the second reading, we are reminded that each of us has been filled with this Same Divine Love, and that love is still visible in the Gifts, or Charisms that the Spirit pours out into our lives to continue the work of Jesus in the world throughout time- if we do not inhibit His Actions in us! Each gift is given for our benefit and the benefit of others. We are reminded that these gifts are made visible and present in each of the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of the Eucharist, in which the Spirit’s power makes present the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus the Christ!

The gifts of the Spirit are also visible in the gifts of prayer that He gives us, and many times is expressed in the waves of peace and joy that are experienced in prayer, but most especially in our fidelity to prayer and to the Mass!

In the Gospel, we are reminded that the chief work of the Spirit, is the gift of reconciliation with God- this is expressed when Jesus declares: "Peace be with you!" It is no coincidence, that Jesus gives this gift of reconciliation to the very people who abandoned Him after the Last Supper. Those who killed their relationship with Jesus by betraying His friendship, are now made fully alive by Him in His Divine Friendship, and so are we!

However, we must keep the flame of the Divine Love alive; we cannot presume upon God's gift, He only comes when invited. We keep the flame of Love alive by making Mass, Confession and deep prayer a priority in our lives. If we do not, we let the fire of Divine Love starve, like a flame starved of oxygen, and we spiritually die. Today, we are living in a world that is spiritually dead. We are the lightning God wants to use to spread a forest fire!