

Pentecost Sunday

My beloved brothers and sisters: in 1544, a young priest was praying in the catacombs, the place wherein the bodies of many martyrs had been buried, when something utterly extraordinary happened: While he was praying, a ball fire entered through his mouth and lodged in his heart. When he regained his senses, he found a great swelling on his left side, which remained with him for the rest of his life. Often, when he was praying, his heart would be so filled with the Divine Love, that his neighbors next door could hear the beating of his heart. After he died, an autopsy was performed, and they found that several of his ribs on that side were cracked by his extremely enlarged heart. This has been attested to by the surgeons who discovered it!

Today, my brothers and sisters, the Easter season comes to its conclusion, and today, we celebrate the fulfillment of the Promise that Jesus had made to us at the last Supper in a way that could not be contained, and still, cannot be contained! The Apostles and disciples were crowned by the Fire of the Divine Love, and they immediately took up the mission of Jesus, for the reconciliation of mankind with the Father, by proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel and proclaiming the forgiveness of sins. The Fire of the Divine Love was so intense, that it was experienced by the crowd in Jerusalem in a way that could not be denied nor ignored: a roaring wind came rushing upon the Apostles and Disciples, and the Fire of God lit upon their heads, drawing the huge crowd to the house where they were. This sign of the Divine Love, went beyond the barriers of languages, and the physical barriers of the human body, and broke open the hardened hearts of the people who were seeking the truth about God and our relationship with Him: “What must we do, brothers, in order to be saved?” We are told that over 3000 people were baptized that very day, and brought into the unity of the Church!

Most of us, will never experience burning flames light upon our heads, but anyone who opens themselves to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and opens their hearts to the Fire of the Divine Love, will experience the Burning Fire of His Love: sometimes so intensely that we feel overwhelmed, most times, as an inner

compulsion to love God and our neighbor and to be God's saints- to do everything that we can to seek Him and be with Him. Why do you think so many in this parish have made the total Consecration to the Heart of Jesus and Mary? Why do you think so many have responded to Jesus in the New Evangelization Retreat? Why do you think so many come to daily Mass and Adoration, pray the Rosary and are so involved in Parish Life? Today, ask Jesus to renew and refresh within you the Fiery Divine Love of God, the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to set your hearts and lives and families on fire with His Divine Love! Ask Him to make of you an agent of the Divine Love and Reconciliation with others: He will do it, if you are faithful to it!