

Pentecost 2018

“Father that they all may be one....”

People of God, Christ is still at work in His Church. The feast of today, commonly called the Solemnity of the Fifty Days or Pentecost, is the celebration of Christ awakening His Church from fear and isolation in an engaging fearless evangelization. Some call it the Solemnity of the Holy Spirit and others call it the birthday of the Church. It is indeed the Solemnity of Christ, the fulfillment of His promise of sending the Holy Spirit to His Church. We recall the three significances of the Ascension namely; the transcendental authority of Christ, the evangelical nature of the Church as a society on mission to witness and the unconditional abiding presence of Christ in the life and mission of His Church (Mt. 28:20).

The Christian Bible testified that the apostolic Church had not missionary enthusiasm due to fear of persecution and execution (Jn 20:19). Jesus must have foreseen this hesitation to witness and in order that they may not rely on their own weakness, He seemed to have allowed it when He told them “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The mission however, must take its place in history. Therefore, Christ had to send His Spirit to awaken His Church from fear, forgetfulness and with the joy to proclaim the goodness despite their fears (Acts 2:37-47).

The Holy Spirit has three tasks to fulfill in the Church; to teach, to remind and to remain. He is to teach Christ’s Church everything Christ could not because of time factor (Jn 16:12), He is to remind us all that Christ already taught us (Jn 14:12), and He will remain with us forever (Jn 16:16).

The Holy Spirit comes with many gifts for the benefit of the Church. These gifts can be categorized into seven, namely: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. This truly means that the Holy Spirit has been given to each of us in a special way, but for the good of all. (1 Cor. 12 1-31.) These gifts are manifested in our everyday experience as charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency and chastity. (Gal. 5: 22-23.) They grow in our daily experience so that we can be equipped and empowered against concupiscence and the vices that compromise our relationship with Christ. (Gal. 5: 18-21.)

In a nutshell, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the living attitude of a person or a community who lives according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. In our little parish here, the coming of the Holy Spirit is the same event in our lives as it was for the apostolic church. It is as difficult to make Christ present today as it was for the disciples. We have many reasons and excuses why making Christ present is a herculean task, but if we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, this task becomes a treasure. The truth is that on the day of the Ascension, the Holy Church moved

the Paschal candle. We no longer have the Paschal candle as the shining presence of Christ among us at every liturgy. At the coming of the Holy spirit, that light of Christ is now within in us and He shines through us to the whole world.

Please do not extinguish the Light of the Holy Spirit in you.

Mission: Pray (read) John 17