

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

PENTECOST IS THE HOLY SPIRIT COMING TO ILLUMINATE AND RENEW US AS CHURCH



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Happy Birthday or Happy first of the Pentecost

Fifty days after Easter, we have arrived at the Christian Feast of Pentecost. This Sunday, we reached the conclusion of the Easter Season. Throughout this period, we have celebrated the Risen Christ the Conqueror of death and sin. On the day of the Ascension, He appeared one final time to the eleven disciples. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles (the First Reading) tells us that He **"was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight."**

This account from the First Reading is set during the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Saint Luke speaks to us of a sound like that of a violent gust of wind, as well as of a fire that is divided into tongues. This is the Gift of the Holy Spirit. At that moment, everything changes within the hearts of the Apostles. Whereas they had been "confined" in the upper room, they now began to venture out. The fear that had paralyzed them is swept away. They begin to proclaim the wonders of God before the very people who had put Christ to death on the Cross. The first of these wonders is the proclamation of Jesus dead and risen. And what is extraordinary is that everyone hears them speaking in their own native tongue. This is a way of saying that the Gospel is for everyone, regardless of their country of origin. This Good News must be proclaimed throughout the entire world. It is a way of saying that **"the Church exists for those who are not yet within it."**

In his letter to the Christians of Corinth (the Second Reading), Paul calls to mind the work of the Holy Spirit within the community. The problem is that divisions have arisen among the Christians. This constitutes a counter-witness. From this moment on, only one thing matters: **our baptism in the one Spirit.** The Church is not a pyramid, but rather a multitude gathered closely around Jesus Christ. In his letter, **Saint Paul presents the Church to us as a body. Christ is its head, and we are its members.** Each of us is different. We must view the Church as a multitude of every color. The various members do not share the same function. This diversity is a gift. **Every member is of great importance in the eyes of God. We are called to live out unity within diversity. We will be able to win this challenge only because the Holy Spirit has been given to us.**

This feast of Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit, who has ceaselessly renewed the Church for twenty centuries. It is this very Spirit whom we are invited to welcome into our lives. To do so, we must open ourselves to this gift from God. We know full well that this is not easy. **With His help, we can be imbued with the Love that dwells within God, so as to share it with all those around us.** We are sent into the world to bear witness to the hope that animates us. Pope Francis has told us that this hope must be combative. The Christian life is a struggle against ourselves and, quite often, against fashionable ideas. Like a mighty fire, the Spirit dispels their darkness; He illuminates our night. Following in the footsteps of the Apostles, the Church is called to impart peace and to manifest forgiveness. This peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is, first and foremost, inner peace a sense of serenity; it is mercy; it is God Himself. **Pentecost is the Holy Spirit coming to illuminate our night.** Let us pray to Him that **He may always be with us, and that He may grant us the Grace to proclaim the Good News with a Zeal that nothing can intimidate.**

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