

Pentecost Sunday

Three prisoners broke out of their cells and instigated a failed prison riot. After they were caught, the warden asked why they had revolted. Warden, said one of the men. "we rebelled because the food is awful." I see, said the warden. And what did you use to break the bars?

The spokesman replied, "Oatmeal cookies"

Dear friends,

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It is a remembrance of the 50th day of Easter. It is a special day for the church. In the Jewish culture it was celebrated after fiftieth day of Passover. Pentecost marks the closing of Easter. It reminds us to rely on the holy spirit in our lives.

The readings explained the work of the Holy spirit among the Apostles and other people on the day of Pentecost.

The first reading gives the narrative of what happened on the day in their midst. There are three things mentioned in the reading today. First the entire house was filled with the Holy spirit. They were all filled with holy spirit. Secondly the spirit enabled them to speak in different tongues. Everyone understood in their own language. Thirdly, it unified everyone in one.

In the second reading, St. Paul explains how the Holy spirit works in different persons and unify everyone together in Christ as parts of body works together to bring the fullness of human. These parts cannot exist except as one body. The community is the one body of Christ. Whatever spiritual gift individual possess, whatever ministries they perform, they are the one body of Christ animated by the Holy spirit.

In the Gospel, Jesus breathed on the Holy spirit. Jesus empowered the disciples with the Holy spirit. When they were in the room together Jesus sent them with the power of the holy spirit. The holy spirit brings intimacy with God. "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba! ('Father!')'" (Gal 4:6). "God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Let us think about how we are empowered by the Holy spirit in our faith?

The Spirit is that Paraclete (a Greek word that is translated Counselor, Comforter, Helper, Encourager, or Enabler), Who quietly works in us and through us every day behind the scenes in the basic activities of our lives and the lives of the people around us. He is there in all His fullness wherever people worship and pray in the Name of Jesus. When we

believe and trust in Jesus, we have that Faith through the Holy Spirit's work in us, filling us with Himself and His Gifts.

The Holy Spirit leads us to turn away from our self-worship and sinfulness and reassures us that we are still loved in spite of our sin, and that Jesus died on a cross just to remedy the effects of those moments when we rebel against God's Way. It is the Holy Spirit Who confronts us and urges us to take a good look at ourselves and where we are heading, to make a U-turn, to leave the old behind and to try something new.

The Holy Spirit is not afraid to challenge us and stretch us to go and do things for Christ – things we have never done before or ever imagined ourselves doing. He's the One Who says to us, "Stop being so self-focused. Stop looking into yourself all the time and being depressed by what you see or fooling yourself into thinking that what you see in yourself is enough to get you through! Look up, look away, look to Jesus and let Him turn your around; let Him take control!"

In short, the holy spirit enables us to become the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us repeat Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:"

"Come Holy Spirit
Make our ears to hear
Make our eyes to see
Make our mouths to speak
Make our hearts to seek
Make our hands to reach out
And touch the world with your love. AMEN."