

Pentecost Sunday

A mother refused to allow her little boy to go to a picnic with his classmates. On the day of the picnic, however, she changed her mind and gave him permission. But he sighed and confessed, "It's too late Mummy, I've already prayed for rain on the school picnic day!"

Dear Friends,

Today the church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. The fiftieth Day after Easter. This is the 50th day of Jewish Passover feast. On the day of Pentecost: 1) The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as tongues of fire. 2) The frightened apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelizers and were given the gift of tongues by a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. 3) The listeners experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the apostles' gift of tongues: they heard Peter speaking in their native languages. 4) The early Christians became powerful witnesses and brave martyrs for their Faith in Jesus.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives the detailed picture of what happened on the day Pentecost. There are three theological points to ponder for us. 1) It comprises of pilgrimages, feasts and giving of Mosaic law on Mount Sinai. The Holy Spirit descends upon them to give new law. 2) it brought real meaning of tongues. The validation of diversity of languages and overturning of the confusion in the book of Genesis 11: 1-9. 3) the spirit of universalism: going outside the walls of Jerusalem.

In the Gospel Jesus tells the disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with us always. It is a promise which changed the attitude of the disciples and led them to be better disciples of Jesus' liking.

Today we see the world in a state of confusion. Lot of things are going on with us. More wars, shootings, diseases, social media challenges than ever before, and all kinds of other confusions are going around in our midst. We all need the Holy Spirit among us. As we sing in the responsorial psalm, "Send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth." We need a renewal in all of us and around the world. The Holy Spirit needs to come down upon us. Maybe we need to be more open to the Spirit. CCC # 698 says that we sealed with the Holy Spirit through our Baptism and other Sacraments. We are 'indelibly sealed' and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We need to live in the Spirit. How do we live in the Spirit? When we live in deeper realities of fruits of the Holy Spirit, we live in the spirit. Galatians 5: 22-23 gives the fruits of the

Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In the same chapter, Paul tried to say the evil things that are contrary of the fruits.

To live in the spirit is to have a relationship with Holy Spirit. Giving control of ourselves to Him who can guide us and strengthen us in the right direction. We all need the renewal in our hearts and minds.

Let us pray," come Holy spirit and be with me, bring renewal in my life. "