

Homily For The Feast of Pentecost 2015

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Today we are a blessed people! We have been deemed worthy by our Merciful God to once again celebrate the Great Feast Day of Pentecost! Did you see the Tongues of Fire Descend from Heaven? Did you feel the rushing of the wind? I assure you it did take place at the very hour of the Day, 9:00 am when Holy Tradition tells us the Holy Spirit descended on that first Pentecost Day in the upper room.

Over the years, I have taught and retaught and reminded you, that when we take part in the services of the Church, we go outside of time, and participate in the actual event we are celebrating, as if it were just taking place. We do not theatrically re-enact a past event. We don't pretend or role play. We are actually there, spiritually. This is why all of the hymns we sing are in the present tense. Today, Christ Rose from the Tomb, Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent one. So today, our little Church has become the upper room, where Jesus and His disciples took part in the mystical supper and where the apostles awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Look around you, does not our Church seem like a little slice of paradise? Do you not feel an intense peace and a spiritual intensity? Look at all of the green branches everywhere in the Church. The world of nature is showing us today through its lush greenery, that the same Holy Spirit that is at work in creation, is watering our souls with the Living Waters of Godliness. This living water, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, is what we need to quench our thirsty souls. It is what we need to endure the struggles of daily life. It is what we need to grow and thrive. It is the missing link which makes the possible become reality. It is quite literally the spiritual Miracle Grow which helps us the garden of our souls to grow and flower.

So you see, today is a very, very special and amazing day. It is the first day of the rest of our lives, a time of new beginning, yes, today, we participate in this Great Feast and the Holy Spirit has descended. Now what? What does this or should this mean to us in a practical sense? It means, that we have the potential to change and become more alive, to accomplish great things for the Glory of God. Look what happened on the Day of Pentecost! The Apostle Peter preached an amazing homily, which led three thousand people to embrace the Christian faith through Holy Baptism. The formerly weak and fearful and clumsy Apostles became strong and inspired and eloquent and Grace-filled.

This same amazing transformation is possible for you and I in our own lives, today, right now. All that is required is that we live our lives in harmony with the Spirit. The technical word is "synergy", "working together in harmony". To truly work in harmony with the Holy Spirit, we must strive with all of our strength to give up our own self. Our guiding principle in life must simply to be obedient to the Holy Spirit from moment to moment as did Mary, the Mother of God who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord.."; and our Lord Jesus Christ who prayed to His Father, "Not my will but yours be done". The more our will is subjected to the Spirit, the holier we are, and the more God can use us for his purposes.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came first on the Church, on the Christian community, and then on individuals. The more you and I are in harmony with the Church, the better we will be able to discern what God wants us to do from moment to moment. The fight to bring our wills into harmony with the Spirit and take full advantage of being a Pentecost people, will be a life long struggle. As our obedience and humility grow ever deeper; and the more humbly obedient we are, the more we will love as Christ did who was obedient unto His own death.

Even though prayer, penance and good works are an essential part of the Christian life, even more important is obedience because all activities are only authentically

Christian when they are the fruit of this obedience to the Spirit.

Every circumstance in our lives, whether positive or negative, gives us new opportunities to grow in harmony with the Spirit, new opportunities of humility and obedience, new chances to love with the love of Christ. The opportunities abound, the possibilities are endless.

What remains is for us to have the proper attitude, the burning desire that we see in the person of the Mother of God, to hear the word of God and keep it. Sounds simple, right? If you think about it there is nothing complicated about doing the right thing? The Mother of God lived a quiet and simple life. Its really not hard to physically get in our cars and drive to Church and spend a few hours each Sunday? It is not physically strenuous to come to confession? How hard is it to pick up the bible and read a chapter or a few verses a day? Does it take a lot of energy to smile, or say a kind word? Of course not. But while it is not complicated to hear the word of God and keep it, it is certainly not easy. Satan does not want us to engage in activities that brings light to our souls, and peace to our hearts. He will do everything in his power to trip us up, to try to make us stumble. It is not easy to change. And indeed with out the help of the Holy Spirit it is impossible. Today, though it is much easier to do because we have experienced a mega-dose of the

Holy Spirit, a massive outpouring of Grace. All we need to do is open up our hearts and allow the Grace to flow within us. We can do it. Right now as you are listening to me preach, I ask you to pray quietly and intensely within your mind and heart. *Come O Holy Spirit, Come and make your home within me, I am inviting you in, please come in and stay, and help me to change my attitude, my heart, and become more alive. Help me O Holy Spirit to be on fire with Love for God and my family and all I come in contact with. Let me be a Holy Vessel, a chalice of Grace, as is the Most Holy Mother of God. I love you Lord, help me to serve you!*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Today, we have heard the word of God, We have witnessed the descent of the Holy Spirit, the waters of Godliness have been poured upon us , we have seen the True Light, we have received the heavenly Spirit and we have found the true faith.. Now let us be not only hearers but doers of the Word. Let us then, with the help of God, make the necessary changes to realign our priorities so that we may in obedience and humility be vessels of the Holy Spirit, serving and loving God and our Neighbor, Worshipping the undivided Trinity, in which is our salvation....

Always now and ever and forever. Amen.

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!