Pentecost Sunday June 5, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Just before his ascension into heaven, Jesus said to his apostles: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria - yes, even to the ends of the earth." This Sunday, we are celebrating the fulfillment of these words. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that the apostles proclaimed the good news of Jesus, a proclamation that has come through the apostles even to us living today.

Just what was the effect the Holy Spirit had on the apostles? Was it courage? Yes, it was, as we see in St. Peter who before Pentecost had been afraid even to admit that he knew Christ. Was it strength? Yes, it was that too, as we see in the other apostles who before Pentecost had run away in terror when Jesus was arrested. But the effect was much more than courage and strength. In one word, it was love. The Holy Spirit gave to the apostles the love that exists between the Father and the Son. He gave them himself, for the Holy Spirit is love.

And so, when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, he united them and filled them with love which was the motive, the moving power, behind what they did. And this same Holy Spirit is at work in the Church among us today. The Vatican Council states in its Constitution on the Church: "The Holy Spirit gives the body (of the Church) unity through himself, through the power, and through the internal cohesion of its members, and he produces and urges love among the believers." (Art.7)

No one who has eyes to see or ears to hear can doubt that we need the unifying power of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. The work of Christ is not done among disharmony, discord and dissension. Certainly, there will be disagreements, but we must never let such disagreements split the Church into factions. We cannot go our separate ways, believing what we choose and doing what we wish. The work of Christ, the work of salvation, can be accomplished only by what we do together within the Church.

Our times must see a renewal of the Holy Spirit. We will have a new Pentecost in the Church only if we open our lives to the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Eucharistic Prayers, the Church has been inspired to place the Holy Spirit in great prominence once again. Each of the new prayers has two invocations of the Holy Spirit. The first is a prayer that the bread and wine may become the body and blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The second is a prayer that all who receive the body and blood of Christ may be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

As we receive Christ this Sunday, we should do so realizing that all our fellow Catholics throughout our parish, our country, and even to the ends of the earth are sharing in this same Holy Communion. Let us pray that we who are nourished by the body and blood of Christ may be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we may become one body, one spirit in Christ (cf. Eucharistic Prayer No. 3).

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**June 7**	**11:00AM**
William (Bill) Chua†		Priscilla
Wed.	**June 8**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**June 9**	**11:00PM**
Dana		Mom
Fri.	**June 10**	**11:00AM**
Father's Day Novena		
Sat.	**June 11**	**4:30PM**
Father's Day Novena		
Sun.	**June 12**	**9:00AM**
Father's Day Novena		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Father's Day Novena		
	People of the Parish	

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