

Come, Holy Spirit! Pentecost brings to a close Eastertide and marks the birth of the Church. We are in the era of the Holy Spirit that Jesus has made over his Church. The gift of Pentecost - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual gifts and blessings of God - are made possible through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus. After his resurrection Jesus "breathed" on his disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. Just as God breathed life into Adam. God "breathes" His Spirit into our souls that we may live in His life and love; God ignites the "fire" of His Spirit within our hearts and minds that we may seek God in all things in order to realize the coming of His reign. Holy Spirit is God living in us and transforming us so that we may bring His life and love to our broken world. So, the gift of the Holy Spirit is an impartation of "new life" for his people. With the gift of the Holy Spirit a new creation begins.

The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the forgotten person of the Blessed Trinity. In comparison to our Lord Jesus, who lived upon this earth as a man and whose works and preaching are so familiar to us, and even in comparison to the Father, to whom is attributed the work of creation, Catholics often neglect devotion to the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, the works of sanctification are commonly attributed to him. The solemnity of Pentecost is a great reminder of all the works of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. St. Oscar Romero said, "Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones." The Holy Spirit did not descend upon the Church on this one occasion to desert it. He reigns with it still. For in the words of Christ, "I will send you another Advocate, to dwell with you forever." As the soul abides in the body of humans, so the Holy Spirit abides in the body of the Church. With the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the disciples were enlightened and empowered as they went forth to preach the gospel of our Lord. They were touched, torched and transformed by the fire of Holy Spirit. Their fear turned to fortitude, cowardice to courage, mess to message, test to testimony and vice to victory. All through their mission, the Holy Spirit consoled, comforted and counselled them.

The Lord Jesus offers each one of us the gift and power of his Holy Spirit. He wants to make our faith strong, give us hope that endures, and a love that never grows cold. He never refuses to give his Spirit to those who ask with expectant faith. Jesus instructed his disciples to ask confidently for the gift of the Spirit: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk 11:13). Do we thirst for God and for the abundant life he offers through the gift of his Spirit?

The gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others. St. Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good, and for the building up of the Body of Christ. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love.

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. (St. John Henry Newman)

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