

PENTECOST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Almost everybody looks forward to the day he/she was born. It is a great day of celebration and of gathering together for wishing the particular celebrant BEST wishes.

Well, today is the birth day of the Church so to say!

Without Pentecost there is no Church. ****Do not leave Jerusalem until the helper comes.*** It was only after this that the apostles began spreading the Gospel,...and they began it in Jerusalem during this day when all the Faithful Religious Jews from all the parts of the known the world were gathered together in Jerusalem,...after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles they could reach all people in their own language. After leaving Jerusalem and going their own way, these foreigners were able to spread the word of what happened while there in Jerusalem.

Remember too that the apostles had been instructed not to leave the city of Jerusalem until the helper comes,...they had been told that when He comes they will be His witness. Not only there in Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria, but everywhere, even to the end of the world.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them as a **great wind and tongue of fire signifying power and love.** True to His word, the Lord appeared to them in His **glorified body when the doors were locked** (due to fear of the Jews). Note the fact that

Jesus' glorified body was not subjected to any earthly limitations and restrictions.

He appeared to them, gave them what they desperately needed, ****Peace be with you*** then proved to them he is the same person who was crucified by showing them the scars. It is only after providing them with what they needed that he gave them the Mission, ****As the father has sent me so I send you (Jn 20:21)***. He equipped them with the instruments of the mission ***Receive the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:22)***.

Jesus was very much aware He was establishing His church both on and through human beings, with **shortcomings and limitations...** hence at the same time He instituted the sacrament of Reconciliation.

****For those sins you forgive are forgiven and for those sins you retain are retained (Jn.20:23)***. The apostles started the mission by reaching out to those who were in Jerusalem at the time. Our mission **must start** where we are and spread to **others**. ****Are these people not Galileans and how come we can hear in our own native language? (Act 2:7-10)***. This shows that the Gospel IS BEYOND LIMIT of language, tribe, race, color, culture, age, status, gender, or political affiliation.

The coming of the Holy Spirit changed the apostles and even the people listening to the mission message. We are all called to **open our hearts for the Holy Spirit to work with and in us**.

(How does the Holy Spirit bring change and growth?)

The Holy Spirit brings change and growth with:

***1-Hope and love.**

***2-Our capacity: all of us have the mission and role of sharing God's goodness, and we all are blessed with the ability to receive it as well.**

***3-Being the living body: we have hands that can care, eyes that can see, ears that can hear, a tongue that can speak, and a heart that can love, thus making change in our society and the world.**

This is the call of Pentecost for us today.

The Spirit **keeps the Church as one, makes it holy, apostolic, and universal...which will not work independently of you and me.**

No matter how challenging, hard, or difficult the situation we are in is, our prayer should be ***COME HOLY SPIRIT AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.** He is not limited to the physical gifts of language manifested speaking words by tongue alone, but through the living word giving the gifts of **gentleness, self-control, love, joy, peace, patience, generosity, and faithfulness....** **Be open to these gifts today.*

HAPPY PENTECOST TO ALL!

