

**FR.TK.REFLECTIONS PENTECOST YEAR A.2023;**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Everyone looks forward to the day she/he was born. It is a very special day to gather together to celebrate with friends and family members. Today we are equally in that mood as we celebrate the Birthday of the Church. Without Pentecost there is no church. Jesus instructed his apostles not to leave Jerusalem until the helper comes (Act.1:4). It is only after this helper, the Paraclete that the apostles were able to move out of Jerusalem thus spreading the gospel.

This particular day the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Resurrection which corresponded to the Jewish feast of **harvest and thanksgiving**, the **Holy spirit** came on the Jesus **followers**. They were all together in one place (Act 2:1).

It is during this time that the Lord appeared to them in that closed room and he gave them what they desperately needed at the time

***PEACE. peace be with you Jn.20:19.*** He repeated this more than once showing how necessary this was to them. This time it was accompanied with a mission ***as the father has send me so I send you(21)*** then he equipped them with the **instrument to facilitate the mission receive the Holy Spirit(Jn.20:22)** In this Jesus too instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the same time **for those sins you forgive are forgiven and for those sins you retain they are retained(Jn.20:23)** This is the Biblical foundation of this great sacrament of penance no argument, it is traced back to Jesus himself.

The Holy Spirit descended on them like **strong wind and flames of fire** which came on each one of them. Immediately they started speaking in other **languages to an extend all people** who had gathered in Jerusalem from **all over the known world by then** could hear the disciples in their own language as the spirit enabled them to speak (Acts 2:4).

We can see the **power** of the Holy spirit coming among the Apostles, it gave them **confidence, courage and strength to witness Christ** and they were bold enough unlike the coward attitude they had before.

The same spirit of Pentecost has been given to all of in **Baptism and confirmation and in Eucharist**(let your spirit come upon these gifts that they may become for us the body and blood).

The Holy Spirit will produce in us not only the **gift of speaking with tongue and gifts of healing as it were but goodness,faithfulness,love, humility,peace,joy,patience,kindness and self control**.Dont we need all that to keep us going? We need all these attributes led by love which is **patience and not jealousy**.

The Spirit makes us aware of Gods presence **with and in us through love of him and our neighbor**.Like the Jews then Pentecost is day to thank God for the **church and faith which allows us to say Jesus is the Lord**.

The Holy Spirit bring **inner healing to the broken souls,peace to disturbed minds,it enables to forgive,gives power to be faithful to our promises and vows.It will bring us back to our failing faith,help us renew our trust in God**.once we welcome the Spirit in us obviously he will **bring order,balance and health** in our souls and definitely will **bring life to what is dying,cure what is wounded,loose what is rigid,warm up what is frozen by the society we are living in which is trying to keep God at the bay**.

We need now to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit that he may **restore us to the direction of Christ**.we are all called for this mission of **restoration and witnessing Christ to the world**.We must have courage in opening our hearts,reaching out to other with the gifts of **understanding,knowledge,Counselor,piety,fortitude and the fear of the Lord**,how are you using these gift yourself?

Our prayer to day should be **send forth your spirit Lord that you may RENEW the FACE OF THE WORLD THROUGH ME.**