



YEAR B - PENTECOST SUNDAY - 2018

How did Christianity, in 30 short years grow from a tiny spark into a raging inferno? That amazing story is told in the Acts of the Apostles today (Acts 2:1-11).

The starting point for that amazing story is what happened in today's gospel (John 20:19-23). The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had promised to send to his disciples, descended upon them on Pentecost and transformed them. They each had their own “metanoia” experience. This confused band of human beings was transformed into a single body of witnesses, which we now call the Church. But the church is far, far more than just a body of believers sharing a common faith. We believe it is the mystical body of Christ sharing a common life.

We are now the eyes and ears, and the hands and feet of Jesus. We have been commissioned to go out and love as Jesus did and not be afraid of lies, or deceit or persecution of any kind. It's not always easy but it is always possible. The Holy Spirit makes it possible.

It was my privilege in 2012 to preside at the Confirmation of our 8th grade students. I mentioned on that occasion that the Holy Spirit is essential if we want to grow spiritually.

You have often heard the expression, follow your conscience - But conscience alone without the help of the Holy Spirit can lead us astray. If I ask you to think of a person in the old testament who is noted for wisdom - one of the gifts of the holy spirit - you would probably come up with the name of Solomon. He was probably one of the wisest of the leaders in all Hebrew history and yet toward the end of his life, he chose evil under the appearance of good.

To please his many mistresses, he worshiped false gods to keep them happy. He was following his conscience but ignoring the spirit of God. His conscience was certain but erroneous.

We have the capacity to do the same thing. We too can choose evil under the appearance of good. When a man chooses to be unfaithful to his wife - he doesn't do it because he wants to offend God or anyone else. He does it because he chooses evil under the appearance of good. He follows his conscience, but he ignores the Holy Spirit. His conscience is certain but erroneous.

Today, on this feast of the Holy Spirit, we reflect on how we allow the Holy Spirit to be involved in our daily decision-making processes. Do we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit when we make decisions or are they something we received a long time ago and don't remember where we put them?

For a few moments in silence, reflect on where you put them and how you use them every day.

COME HOLY SPIRIT

