

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told His disciples that He was returning to the Father, but would not leave us as orphans. He promised an Advocate, a Sanctifier, a Teacher, the Holy Spirit. The disciples were in the upper room with the doors locked out of fear. They had no idea what to do next. They asked themselves was this the end of their journey. The Holy Spirit came down on them and everything changed. They were no longer afraid, they were no longer confused as what to do next, and they realized their mission had not ended but had entered into a new phase. They went from being students to being teachers. They took the message of Jesus Christ into the whole of the known world at the time. They knew that Jesus told them, 'if they did it to the shepherd they will do it to the sheep.' They knew that their lives would be in danger but they went about their mission with joy, with faith, and with love. They believed in the promise of a reunion with Jesus. They literally changed the entire world. Twelve imperfect and under qualified men took the message to the world. They understood they had a divine mission to accomplish and it was not their skills or abilities that would convert hearts, but that the Holy Spirit would use them to accomplish their mission.

On Pentecost Sunday we do not just reflect back 2000 years, for we know Pentecost happens whenever there is a Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Wedding, Ordination, or Anointing of the Sick. There is a Pentecost whenever you or I call on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. You and I understand we have not received a lesser Holy Spirit, but the same Holy Spirit as the Apostles.

As we prepare to start to emerge from our shelter in place we are called to be like the Apostles, to do it in the name of Jesus Christ. Mother Theresa reminds us that God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called. Each of us, like the Apostles, have been given a divine mission in helping to build the Kingdom of God.

I am reminded of the 6 year old boy whose mother took him to a piano concert to help encourage him to work at his desire to play the piano. The mother got seats in the front row to help the boy stay focused. A friend was sitting next to the mother and she lost track of the boy. As the lights went down, the mother looked over and began to panic for the boy was not sitting next to her. The spot light shined on the grand piano and there sat her son playing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. The master mounted to stage and came behind the boy and whispered into his ear, "Don't quit." The master began to fill in all the missing part. There was a standing ovation after that piece and everyone who attended that night would never forget Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. The Holy Spirit does the same for us. He whispers in our ears, "don't quit" and begins to fill in all that is lacking or falls short. In God all things are possible if it be His will. Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of Your faithful, enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

Many of you may be wondering what is going on with our churches being locked down. We are moving forward with the diocese plan but we cannot reopen the churches of Delavan and Hopedale until all of the criteria are met. We need 6 volunteers from each parish to be trained (watching a 1 hour video) in being ushers/greeter and people willing to clean the churches after each use (check the website for those who are not qualified). Until this is done, we cannot even open in a limited way. We have only gotten 1 couple in each parish who have offered to help. If you are willing to help, email Gayle and let her know. We may be looking at some outdoor masses if we can find a place for them.

In a Union of Prayer,

Fr Tim