

## Pentecost Sunday

Many years ago, I attended mass in my local parish. It was Pentecost Sunday. After the reading of the Gospel, Father started his homily by saying, “the Holy Spirit can come into our lives in the most unexpected ways”. Just as he finished this statement, wind struck the church, whistled around the corners of the church and rattled the shingles of the roof. There was a collective gasp from everyone. I had been attending this church for years and nothing like this had ever happened before. It was memorable. The Holy Spirit may transform people in a dramatic way, such as the Apostles, but for most people the Holy Spirit is active in subtler ways in our personal lives.

We receive the Holy Spirit through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The faith that our parents guided and nurtured us with, becomes our faith and we take ownership at some point in our lives. As we grow and mature spiritually we become more aware of our need for the Holy Spirit. In all the many decisions in our lives we should be attentive to and be guided by the Holy Spirit who will nurture and direct us throughout our lives. Jesus told the Apostles that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them. This “spiritual empowerment” of the Holy Spirit gives us the power and ability to let the spirit guide us and direct us, and lets us step out of our comfort zone, and live out our faith in word and deed, even when it is difficult or not popular. The Holy Spirit will draw us deeper in faith and closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ and may, (if we are open to the Spirit) permeate every aspect of our day, with family, friends and strangers.

Galatians 5:22-23 says that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Saint Teresa of Calcutta was recognized by everyone as a joy filled person, despite all the challenges she had to endure. Each one of us have received the same spirit. We may have different gifts and abilities, yet we all called to live out our lives as practicing our faith, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is the feast of the Spirit. The birth of the Church. Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles, the same Spirit empowers us as well. The Holy Spirit is not given for a moment but accompanies us on our journey in the footsteps of Jesus. We are called as Christians to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in every aspect of our lives. Let us pray, Come Holy Spirit. Renew the face of the earth.

Fr. Robert Love