

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND RENEW THE CHURCH

A Reflection on Pentecost Sunday

We are celebrating Pentecost Sunday, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the Cenacle or “Upper Room”. Sometimes Pentecost is referred to as the “birthday of the Church”.

Jesus had promised his apostles that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them, to speak in their defense, to guide them to all Truth.

As they wait in prayer in the upper room, the Holy Spirit suddenly manifests as violent rush of wind that blows away all fear and whatever may stand in the way of boldly proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is risen. The Holy Spirit comes also as tongues of fire that rests upon each of them: the fire of God’s love that begins to burn within the heart of each and that overflows outward and consumes anything that is not of God. It is also a tongue of fire that preaches with power and calls to repentance and conversion.

When the apostles, empowered by the Spirit, begin to preach, people from different nationalities and languages, understand what they hear as if united into one common language. The Holy Spirit’s language of love unites and breathes into them new life: hearts are touched, people repent and convert. They ask to be reconciled, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Church is born. God’s Kingdom is being established in people’s hearts. Jesus is being proclaimed as Lord of lords and King of kings.

*Jesus wants to be the ruler and Lord of your life and mine. **Only the Holy Spirit can make this happen.** Only the Holy Spirit can change and transform our heart, so that we are made capable to correspond to His love with love. Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to place Jesus at the centre of our life and of our affections, so that we may live only for Him.*

That is what St. Paul meant when he wrote: **“No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit”** (1Cor.12:3).

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