

## **HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED YOUR PENTECOST?**

### **KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES**

Last week we stated that when Catholics go to Sunday Mass, they encounter Jesus, and this encounter causes them to experience a personal transformation.

Last week's question was: how does this encounter and transformation take place?

You also hear that some people find Mass boring and that they get nothing out of it.

I shall try to answer with an analogy:

Do you remember the feeling you experience when you go to a restaurant to have lunch or dinner with friends?

You would normally go for two reasons: first, because you are hungry and you need to eat; second, you go to meet friends, spend some time with them, chatting, catching up with the latest news, etc.

How did you feel after you left the restaurant?

What happened to you?

You entered the restaurant hungry, but you came out full, satisfied and happy for having spent time with friends.

Something similar occurs when Catholics go to Sunday Mass.

In order to experience Mass, you need to go in hungry for God.

**ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR GOD?**

St. Augustine wrote in his Confessions: "Oh God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you!"

That desire to live happy is actually your hunger and thirst for eternal life that only God can give.

Before returning to Heaven, Jesus prayed to the Father to send the Holy Spirit, so that his disciples and all Christian believers after them, would be united to Him as He was united to the Father.

"YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU", Jesus said to his disciples, "AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (Acts 1:8).

At each Mass, like at Jesus' last Supper, by the power of the Holy Spirit the bread and the wine, at the moment of Consecration, become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At that very moment, a miraculous event has taken place under our own eyes: heaven has touched earth. God, the Creator of the universe, has humbled Himself and has become present to his creatures under the form of bread and wine!

At that moment too, we should pray to the Holy Spirit to change and TRANSFORM us as the bread and the wine we're changed, so that we may love like Jesus loves, and be his witnesses wherever we go.

Something else really awesome is also happening during Mass, which is humanly incomprehensible: at the moment of communion, our Lord and God joins Himself to each one of us as in marriage, He being the Bridegroom and we the spiritual Bride!

So, here you have the answers to the previous questions above: if you enter the church hungry for God and with a desire to meet Him, you will not be disappointed; you will not feel bored, because you have actively taken part in the miraculous event. You will exit the church a different person.

At Mass you have experienced PENTECOST, the active presence of the Holy Spirit during the Liturgical celebration along with your fellow Christians. The same Holy Spirit has also enabled your TRANSFORMATION and made your ENCOUNTER with Jesus possible!

EVERY MASS IS ALSO PENTECOST! HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED YOURS?