

05/19/2024 Pentecost Sunday-B

Acts 2:1-11; 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues." - Acts 2:4. Well then, the Holy Spirit must be with me. How? Because half the time, when I talk, some people may look at me like I am speaking a different language.

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Pentecost. Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by the Christians. For each one of us who are here we do believe that the Holy Spirit exists because we feel His presence in us. Even if we do not see, hear, taste or smell the Holy Spirit, we do believe His existence. It is because "for those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible,"

An old beggar lay on his deathbed. His last words were to his young son who had been his constant companion during his begging trips. "Dear son," he said, "I have nothing to give you except a cotton bag and a dirty bronze bowl which I got in my younger days from the junk yard of a rich lady." After his father's death, the boy continued begging, using the bowl his father had given him. One day a gold merchant dropped a coin in the boy's bowl and he was surprised to hear a familiar clinking sound. "Let me check your bowl," the merchant said. To his great surprise, he found that the beggar's bowl was made of pure gold. "My dear young man," he said, "why do you waste your time begging? You are a rich man. That bowl of yours is worth at least thirty thousand dollars."

We Christians are often like this beggar boy who failed to recognize and appreciate the value of his bowl. We fail to appreciate the infinite worth of the Holy Spirit living within each of us, sharing His gifts and fruits and charisms with us. On this major feast day, we are invited to experience and appreciate the transforming, sanctifying and strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

The disciples had locked themselves in "for fear of the Jews." They had gathered themselves into a kind of tomb. Perhaps they thought that their future would be in a very bad shape. But suddenly Jesus appeared among them. He would not let these disciples enter an early Hades. He empowered them with the Spirit. Now Jesus breathed the Spirit into these disciples as God breathed into Adam the breath of life, so, making them a new people.

The Holy Spirit now guides the church and continues the works and teachings of Jesus without changing them. He infuses in us together with sanctifying grace and the three theological virtues of faith, hope and love. He gave to us His seven gifts of: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. And, this Holy Spirit gave to us the twelve fruits of these seven gifts, namely: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, forbearance, meekness, fidelity, modesty, continence and chastity (Gal.5:16-25).

What is the life message for us today? We need to permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives: May be by constantly remembering His holy presence and behaving well or may be by praying for His daily anointing so that we may fight against our temptations and control our evil tendencies, evil habits and addictions.

Therefore, let us recall that we have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Let us guard ourselves what we have received. The Holy Spirit is a life-giving, empowering sign of Love. So, let us love another, understand each other and help each other with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. May be by asking His daily assistance to pray, listening to God through meditative Bible reading and talking to Him or may be by asking the help of the Holy Spirit to do good for others and to be reconciled to God and others every day. **Amen.**