

FORMATION MONTHLY



DEPARTMENT FOR PASTORAL MINISTRIES | MAY 2024

Pentecost Vigil Mass Homily Church of the Holy Spirit May 27, 2023

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“‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in me.’ He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive.” – John 7: 38-39.

It was on the first Pentecost that our infant Church was launched on course and took on its missionary role. Scripture tells us that while the apostles were at prayer with Mary in the upper room, suddenly there was a roaring wind and the Holy Spirit descended on them in the form of tongues of fire and gave these timid and frightened men the courage to rush into the street and fearlessly preach the word of God to friend and foe alike. The Spirit of the Lord which was poured out and transformed the apostles from a fearful group to courageous men announcing the Good News about the mighty acts of God, was not a one-off happening which only took place at the beginning of the Church.

Ever since, brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit has been a permanent presence in our lives and a tower of strength in guiding and directing the course of our faith community.



The action of the Holy Spirit continues in our time and is first evident in our lives at baptism. It was on that occasion that the loving God reached from all eternity and embraced each of you as a beloved son, a beloved daughter, bringing each of us into an intimate relationship with the Triune God. Heaven has been placed within our reach, but entrance is for those who follow the Lord's command to love... making room for the Spirit of the living God to dwell within us, directing our lives. The starting point for accepting this gift of the Holy Spirit is to open ourselves to prayer... Intimate two-way conversation... speaking and listening to God.

Remember the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles while they were at prayer. Without an attitude of prayerfulness, it is difficult to discover our special talents and the role you each play in the Church's mission. Once we discover our own particular gifts in this way, we also discover how we must use them in building up the Body of Christ.

Pope Francis reminds us that the Holy Spirit changes hearts, transforming our timid hearts to bold men and women who bear witness to Jesus. His action frees hearts, impels service, guides people in new directions, and makes "the lukewarm thrill to new dreams-- that is what it means to change hearts," Pope Francis said.

The Pope also reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives life by giving us a "powerful 'jolt'" when we are in need of real change.

He is the power of God and the giver of life. "How good it would be for us each day to feel this jolt of life! To say when we wake up each morning: Come, Holy Spirit, come into my heart, come into my day," the Pope said (*Pentecost Homily, Rome, May 20, 2018*).

The story of Pentecost invites us, brothers, and sisters, to reflect upon our openness and our response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This feast of Pentecost celebrates the unseen, immeasurable presence of God in your lives and in our life together in the community of the Church. It is the Spirit of God that animates us to do the work of Gospel justice and mercy. It is the Holy Spirit that enables God's will to be our will.

It is the Holy Spirit living in us and transforming us so that we might bring his healing, reconciliation, and love to our broken world.

God breathes his Spirit into our souls that we might live in his life and love. God ignites the 'fire' of his Spirit within our hearts and minds that we may seek God in all things in order to realize the coming of the Reign of God.

May our Mother of Guadalupe continue to bless and watch over you and your loved ones and teach us how to open our hearts to God's Holy Spirit so that we, like her may bring Jesus to a broken world!