

## From the Pastor's Office

### *Pentecost Sunday*

In a sense this is the day we have all been waiting for. This is the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Great artists try to imagine the scene. We are all familiar with paintings showing the Apostles with bolts of fire hovering over them. We might call this theological language in paint. Something extraordinary happened in the Upper Room. Initially the Apostles gathered there for protection. They had just crucified Jesus and for fear of being arrested as accomplices, the Apostles hid away in the room. The atmosphere must have been very tense. Suddenly it all happened. First, Jesus appeared in their midst. Just that alone would make me flee as far away as I could. I am not good with people walking through walls. Jesus seemed to be a heavenly Spirit yet they could touch Him. It was like He was not fully gone to Heaven yet. In that room Jesus breathed His Spirit upon them. That experience ignited a fire among them. If they were defeated and scared before, they definitely were not now. We identify this as the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost. That heavenly breath that emanated from Jesus' mouth travels through time and space to us. We also feel the breath of the Holy Spirit in St. Catherine's. Jesus breathes His Spirit into the Church. There are days when I feel defeated. I say to myself that I can't go on. What's the point? Then after a good night sleep, I bounce back to go again. I attribute that energy as coming from the breath of Jesus. Jesus breathes new life into me all the time. He does that for you as well. Throughout history the Church has risen up and risen down again. We have done terrible things in the name of Jesus, but we have also been great prophets and role models throughout history. The power of the Holy Spirit compels us to keep going. We start every day with the name of Jesus. The mission of Jesus calls us out of bed every day to try again. We speak His word and we will not be silenced. People in society react against the Word of God because if they were to acknowledge it they would have to change their ways. I don't want to make sacrifice. I don't want to give up my sinful pleasures. I don't want to live a holy life. Jesus gave His Apostles a heavenly message straight from the mouth of God Himself. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That is a request straight from the mouth of God to us. It is God's dearest wish that we His holy people carry on the mission and work of Jesus. Lord, that would be a great honor. Thank you.

With love,  
Fr. Pat