

From the PASTOR'S DESK

The Necessity of Pentecost

For Christians, Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit descended on Our Lady and the disciples in the upper room. Yet, in John's Gospel, it is clear Jesus is already imparting the Holy Spirit throughout His ministry.

The context for Pentecost is the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as revealed by Jesus. The mystery of the Blessed Trinity is the most important article of our faith.

Jesus says, The Father and I are one. The Father is always united with Jesus. Jesus is His Word, His Son. In the same way, the Spirit, too, is always united with the Son. Whenever Jesus spoke or acted, He was also imparting the Holy Spirit. So, what makes Pentecost different?

During His ministry, Jesus instructs His disciples to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to obey His commandment to love each other. Jesus was molding His disciples into a community bound by particular values and nourished by the love of God at work in Him.

St. Augustine says that a community is united by the things it loves. Looking at our society, we see a lack of shared values. Diverse, individualistic assumptions promote division and confusion. Even some Christians question objective truth. In the time of Jesus, Jewish beliefs had to compete with Greek and Roman concepts. Through Pentecost, Jesus gives us the model for true human community. His strategy is to reveal the essential nature of God. He could do this with conviction because as the Son of God, He is one with the Father and Holy Spirit.

The nature of God is love. The Father expressed His love for us by sending His Son into the world as a man. Through the Incarnation, it is possible for us to participate in the very life of the Holy Trinity. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven was the prelude to the coming of the full presence of the third person of the Blessed Trinity. The advent of the Spirit meant that God would not only dwell with us but within us.

Pentecost enables us to follow the Son in all that He taught. At Pentecost, the Church – at its best – becomes a community united by Christian values, a perfect community filled with the Holy Spirit, a community called to bring God's merciful love to the whole world.

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