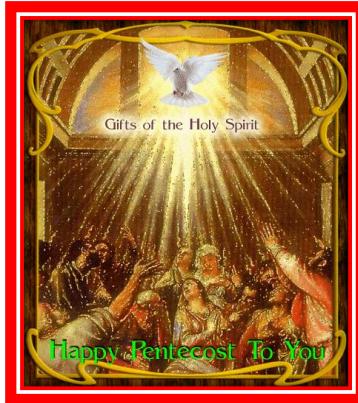
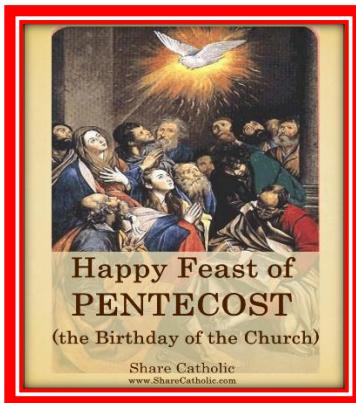


## May 31, 2020 – Solemnity of the Pentecost



**"Opening our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit and to become aware of the greatness of our vocation as Christians!"  
(Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 Jn 20:19-23)**

**Wish you a very Happy Feast of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost!  
Happy Birthday to our Mother Church!**

**Pentecost** literally means 50<sup>th</sup>. It is a feast celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Passover feast by the Jews and a feast celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by Christians. The Jewish Pentecost was originally a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the Deluge and with Moses at Mt. Sinai.

**Treasure within:** An old beggar lay on his deathbed. His last words were to his youngest 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. This is also a day for us to renew the promises made to God during our Baptism and Confirmation, to renew our profession of Faith, and to begin anew practice it faithfully, every day.

Today, on this Great Day of Pentecost, we are invited to open our hearts to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and to become aware of the greatness of our vocation as Christians. On the day of Pentecost, in the Upper Room, as the disciples were gathered in prayer, along with Blessed Mother Mary, “the Holy Spirit filled the entire house in which they were” (Acts 2:2). It is to be noted that the word used to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit is the Greek word “aphno” which means “suddenly”. “And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind...” (Acts 2: 2). The coming of the Holy Spirit was “sudden”. This energetic entry of the Holy Spirit is a glimpse to one important characteristic of the person of the Holy Spirit: Vitality

1. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of life of energy, of vivacity, of animation and of dynamism! Where the Holy Spirit is, there is the great movement of the will, the mind and the heart! It was this “sudden” coming of the Holy Spirit, that transformed the small group of Jesus’ disciples into mighty warriors of the Kingdom of God.
2. Fear was transformed into power. Timidity was changed into boldness. Uncertainty was converted into conviction. Our own lives need an encounter of this “life-transforming” experience. Is my Christian life, dull and slow – merely laced with routine actions of prayers and sacraments? Is my life of faith, lethargic and tepid – simply being pulled on, without any particular awareness or lived without any enthusiasm? then, we need the mighty movement of the Holy Spirit to impress life and vitality to our life and our faith!
3. The Holy Spirit – the shy Person of the Blessed Trinity – is often neglected in our prayers or devotion. The study and awareness of the Holy Spirit is certainly, in general, given lesser priority and importance in comparison to the other Persons of the Trinity. The Feast of the Pentecost is very often not accorded the “solemn” tone in comparison to other feasts like Christmas or Easter. But let us realize, that in the Holy Spirit and in the celebration of this Feast, we have a great treasure to cherish and enjoy. Each Christian ought to build an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Each Christian must become more aware of the role of the Holy Spirit in daily living.

#### **The role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life:**

- 1) **As an indwelling God**, he Holy Spirit makes us His Living Temples (I Cor 3:16).
- 2) **As a strengthening God**, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by our transparent Christian lives
- 3) **As a sanctifying God**, He makes us holy through the Sacraments: a) Through Baptism He makes us children of God and heirs of Heaven. b) Through Confirmation, He makes us temples of God, warriors, and defenders of the Faith. c) Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, He enables us to be reconciled with God by pardoning our sins. d) Through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, He gives us

spiritual nourishment by converting bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood through Epiclesis. e) Through the Sacraments of the priesthood and matrimony, He makes the Church community holy.

4) **As a teaching and guiding God**, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings and guides the Magisterium of the Church to teach Christ's teachings correctly.

5) **As a listening and speaking God**, He listens to our prayers, enables us to pray, and speaks to us, mainly through the Bible.

6) **As a Giver of gifts**, He gives us His gifts, fruits, and charisms, thus enriching the Church.

**Let us inculcate a few practical resolutions to grow in our intimacy and union with this Powerful and Dynamic Personality of the Blessed Trinity:**

- a. Begin the day by offering our lives to the Holy Spirit
- b. Praying, "Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and minds" as we begin a particular activity or work
- c. Making a short examination of conscience at the end of the day introspecting our lives with respect to sin, being grateful for His guidance through the day and seeking for help to do better the following day
- d. Asking for enlightenment in moments of taking decisions and offering to the Holy Spirit – even simply and ordinary ones
- e. Purposely creating a few seconds of silence in the schedule of our works or through the course of the day, and talking to the Holy Spirit, as a friend, in the cave of our heart
- f. Listening to the still, gentle voice of the Holy Spirit in the depths of our being asking Him to help us to be more active to read God's Word in the Bible and to partake of the Sacraments more frequently especially Confession and Holy Eucharist.

The Lord has blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit. He longs to empower our lives. He earnestly wants to be in total control of our lives. But for this, He needs our permission. A permission in the form of longing for Him and making sincere efforts to live away sin.

Let us realize that by the Grace and Power of the Holy Spirit, we are all rich. May we be aware of the worth of the treasure that is with us and live a life worthy of it! On this last day of the month of May, we seek the special intercession of Mother Mary – Our Lady of the Rosary – and pray for the deeper infilling of the Holy Spirit.

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of Pentecost and for the new life you offer in the Holy Spirit. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and set my heart ablaze with the fire of your love that I may serve you in joy and freedom.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**