

The Solemnity of Pentecost Year A, 28 the May 2023

The church celebrates the Pentecost, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus before his ascension to heaven. During advent, we prepare for Jesus' coming to the world; during Lent, we learned about the suffering of Christ for our sake, at Easter, we celebrate his triumph over death, which gives us hope that we too will have victory over our death.

Pentecost culminates his entire work among us, "I will send you an Advocate." (*John 14:16*). This advocate is the Holy Spirit that will come and help, direct the church, teach us to preserve the teachings of Jesus, and help us to spread the gospel of hope and love which Christ taught us while he was in the world. This solemnity is not about a new teaching or new faith. No, the Holy Spirit's only help reactivating what Christ taught us.

We were asked to prepare for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we may share the different gifts of the Holy Spirit. What are those gifts?

Wisdom- the spirit gives us the ability to exercise sound judgment using one's experience in life. Your age must not be a waste, but to be used to the common good.

Understanding- the spirit helps to enlighten us to comprehend the meaning and the purpose of life and interpret information for others.

Counsel- helps us to give good advice, to have the ability to teach, inform, guide, direct, warn, admonish, recommend, and encourage. It is not limited to the giving of advice but extends to the ability to graciously receive it. The gift is needed by parents, teachers, coaches, supervisors, mentors, therapists, lawyers, clergy, consultants, elders, and spouses — anyone who offers advice to others.

Fortitude – help us to be determined to serve the Lord no matter what it may cost us.

Knowledge is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain and master facts and information; and to put what is learned to good use for constructive purposes.

Fear of the Lord – A complete awe and reverence to God, acknowledge that everything we have comes from him.

Piety- is personal holiness, and it includes devotion to God, prayer, virtue, goodness, decency, self-mastery, innocence, the avoidance of sin and obedience to God's will.

During baptism and confirmation, we received Holy Spirit, we must cooperate with these seven special gifts of the Holy Spirit and put them to use otherwise we would be like a new computer that is left in the box after purchased, or like a new car kept in a garage. For the computer to work, it must be plugged in and turned on, and for a vehicle to move, it must be ignited and apply gears to move. For a child of God to function we need to reactivate the gift we received at baptism and confirmation.

Our gifts remain dormant if we don't use them in our daily lives. The different gifts of tongue we read in our first reading is a sign of unity that should exist among Children of God, when there is unity of purpose, the devil will be afraid to harm us. Even if we receive the Holy Spirit, it must be

used for common good not for selfishness. We must harmonize our various gifts to build the Church of God which Christ is the head. That is why the church is very generous with her gifts, she dispenses her sacraments accordingly to those who are in need. The peace Jesus brought to us can only be achieved when we allow the Holy Spirit to take charge of us.

We pray to the Lord to send out the Spirit and renew the face of the earth that is full of evil and many challenges.

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon