



Homily of Pentecost Sunday

In the first reading, the Apostles secluded themselves in one place. The Holy Spirit broke through the seclusion and descended upon them.

In the Gospel, the Apostles locked themselves up for fear of the Jews. Jesus broke the lock, came in, stood in their midst and blessed them with peace and the Holy Spirit.

It is our prayer that whatever is weighing us down into uncertainty, sadness and seclusion be removed by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is our prayer that fear, or whatever that has locked us up be broken by Jesus, so that peace, life and freshness come back to us. Amen.

How can we personalize today's celebration? What does it mean to say that someone has experienced Pentecost? How can we recognize that the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are rekindled and alive in us? The 7 gifts are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

1. One can be said to have experienced Pentecost when the person, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is liberated from fear or whatever is weighing on him / her. The Pentecost experience liberated the Apostles from fear. May we experience a similar **liberation** experience. Amen.
2. Someone can be said to have experienced Pentecost when the person, after undergoing liberation, by the power of the Holy Spirit **discovers a new mission**. After experiencing the Pentecost, the Apostles began the new mission of evangelization. May the Holy Spirit help us to discover something new in our vocation, career, ministry, profession, and other areas of life. Amen.
3. Someone is said to have experienced Pentecost when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the person is **empowered** to carry out the discovered mission. A person can experience liberation and discovers a new mission, but the person must have the will power and the zeal to undertake the mission.
4. Someone is said to have experienced Pentecost when the person experiences a **renewal**. That is, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the person fans into flame God's gifts in him or her that are inactive. God has given each of us spiritual and physical gifts. We received these gifts at birth, or at the reception of various sacraments, or at various times of prayer, or at some spiritual encounter. At some point, the gifts can become inactive or dormant. Pentecost is fanning the gifts back into action. St Paul wrote to Timothy, 2Tim 1:6, "I invite you to fan into flame the gift of God you received through the laying on of my hands. For God did not confer on us a spirit of bashfulness, but of strength, love and good judgment."
5. Pentecost means a **conversion** from sinful way of life to a godly way of life. It means to be led by the Holy Spirit to a spiritually transformed life. It can be a transformed prayer life, or transformed from addiction, or transformed from unforgiving, or healing from anger and so on.

We pray for a new Pentecost experience in our lives, in our homes, in our community, in our parish, our country and in the world. Amen.

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