

Homily: Pentecost May 20th 2018 Church , Introduction

Today we celebrate the great solemnity of Pentecost. Originally it was a Jewish feast of the harvest. We know it is the great birth of the Church, when the Holy Spirit came down in wind and flame to transform the Apostles and Disciples into great missionaries of the Gospel and make of them a kind of Easter harvest.

We each have received the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation to enable each of us live a courageous Christian life.

Pentecost ,says Pope Leo is not only the gift of the Spirit to me but the extent of the gift. Whatever happens in my life , whatever roads I may travel, the Holy Spirit is present in me as my conscience ,as my repentance, as my way back, as my inner moral compass, in my urge to pray, as the desire to forgive as a concern for someone who has experienced tragedy ,as outrage against injustice, as direction for the future.

St. Paul in today's Second reading catalogues for us the ordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit in my life.—When I try to understand others, when I try to unite rather than divide, when I show courage in not only proclaiming but living the Gospel, when I open my heart in prayer, when I make wise choices, when I am faithful.

If we focus only on the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit, for example, (healings, speaking in tongues, prophecies) we are like the person who is fascinated by the magic of fireworks on the Fourth of July and ignores the miraculous power of Sunlight that surrounds us every day.

The Holy Spirit shows his power to all of us when we live lives that are faithful. The Holy Spirit is my personal link to God. The Holy Spirit is Christ's Easter gift to the Church and me. AMEN.