

## Pentecost

The Risen Lord breathes into us new life and sends us with the empowerment of his Spirit to carry forward his mission of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation with a new zeal and vigor.

Today we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, on which the Spirit of the Living God, descended on Mary and the twelve apostles in the form of a mighty wind and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God (or Jesus) who breathes new life or fullness of life into us, making us a new creation, so that we may share the new life with others. The Risen Lord continues to breathe his Spirit into us even today. He empowers us with the same Spirit to come out of our locked doors and fears (as the apostles came out of their hideouts) to be sent out for a mission – a mission of peace, forgiveness, liberation and reconciliation.

We need to consciously invoke him, call him to be on our side as a friend and request him to make us more creative and enthusiastic in service and promotion of life. Whenever we have a passion for life and its meaning/value, we begin to promote the fullness of life under the influence of the Life-Giver = Holy Spirit.

We have to invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to mold us and melt our stubborn resistance to his power to shake us up. At baptism, we received the breath of the Risen Lord, that is, his Spirit that made us a new creation. Today, let's open our hearts to the Risen Lord and ask him to breathe his Spirit into us and renew and re-create us, so that like Adam we may become really LIVING BEINGS.

Just as the gift of the Spirit was given to the disciples to empower them for their mission, the Lord continues to send us his Spirit to continue his mission – to share his peace where it is broken, to reconcile where there is disharmony, to breathe a fresh life where there is no life, to dispel the darkness of sin and to spend

our life in humble service for others. Peace is both a gift and a task. We are given this gift by the Risen Lord not only to experience it in our hearts but also to engage in a peace-building mission that makes whole, what is broken into pieces. Forgiveness of others' sins is the key to peace-building mission.

Healing takes place only when we let go, instead of holding on to the hurts caused by others. In a world which is so much wounded by hatred, violence and divisions, Building up peace is a mission by forgiveness and reconciliation, which the Church cannot afford to forget for the sake of her own relevance in the world. Let us ask ourselves, whether in our families, neighborhood and communities we are known as peacemakers or peace-breakers.

Peace and reconciliation are very much related to building unity in the midst of diversity, plurality and multiplicity prevalent in our globalized world. By overemphasizing those things which make us different from others and never appreciating what is common among us, we bring division and fragmentation; thus suffer the Spirit of Unity. Unity is not uniformity – forcing and expecting everybody to think/ act/ behave like us and to follow our cultural pattern, it is rather, we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, then we begin to appreciate the richness of variety and diversity among people. They are not a source of conflict, but various colors that are molded into a single rainbow. The Holy Spirit inspires and energizes us to develop this kind of 'rainbow spirituality' in multi-religious and multi-cultural situations in our globalized world today.