

Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1–11; Rom 12:3b–7, 12–13; John 20:19–23

Happy Pentecost Sunday!

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church. But if we reflect carefully, Pentecost is not simply the birthday of the Church—it is also the day the disciples stopped being fearful believers and became courageous witnesses.

Before Pentecost, the disciples already believed in Jesus. They already attended His teachings. They already prayed. But they were hiding behind locked doors. After Pentecost, they went out. That is the difference. And perhaps this is the challenge for many of us today: Are we Christians only inside the church, or are we disciples also outside the church?

Many of us still go to Mass. But Pentecost asks us a difficult question: Does our faith continue after the final blessing? Today's readings give us three invitations.

1. The Holy Spirit sends us beyond the walls of the Church: In the Gospel, Jesus entered the room where the disciples were hiding and said: “Peace be with you... As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Notice: Jesus did not say, “Stay here and remain comfortable.” He said: Go. The Spirit was never given for private comfort but for public mission.

Sometimes we unconsciously become “Sunday Catholics.” We attend Mass faithfully—but Monday to Saturday, our faith becomes invisible. We pray at church, but become impatient at home. We receive Holy Communion, but refuse reconciliation. We know Bible verses, but ignore justice, honesty, and kindness.

Pentecost reminds us: Our churches are not parking areas for believers. They are departure areas for missionaries. The true test of Mass is not attendance but transformation. When people meet us in the office, school, market, classroom, social media, or at home—can they somehow encounter Christ through us?

2. The Holy Spirit transforms ordinary life into a place of mission: Saint Paul says in Romans: “We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.” Not everyone preaches. Not everyone sings. Not everyone leads. But everyone has a gift. Your mission may not be in a foreign country like me. Your mission may be: to become an honest public servant, a faithful spouse, a patient parent, a responsible student, an ethical businessman, a compassionate doctor, a teacher who forms values, a worker who does not cheat.

Many people think holiness happens only in religious and rectories. No. Pentecost says holiness can happen in traffic, in offices, in kitchens, in meetings, in hospitals,

and even online. One of the biggest misunderstandings is this: People think faith is one part of life. But for Christians, faith must shape all of life.

Do not leave Jesus inside the church. Bring Him to your decisions. Bring Him to your conversations. Bring Him to your spending habits. Bring Him to your social media. Bring Him to how you treat people.

3. The Holy Spirit makes us witnesses, not merely spectators: In Acts, after receiving the Spirit, the disciples spoke in many languages and people understood them. Why? Because the Spirit wanted the Gospel to reach people where they were. Today, people also speak different “languages.” Some speak the language of loneliness. Some speak the language of anxiety. Some speak the language of anger. Some speak the language of disappointment. Some no longer listen to homilies, but they still notice kindness. Some no longer read the Bible, but they still read our lives. And perhaps this is where Pentecost challenges us most.

Our country today does not only need more churchgoers. It needs more Christians who refuse corruption, speak truth without hatred, care for creation, forgive, serve, and choose integrity even when nobody is watching. The strongest homily is not preached from a pulpit here. It is preached through life.

Today, let us ask the Holy Spirit: Do not allow us to become Christians only on Sundays. Set our hearts on fire so that our faith may be seen every day. Because the world will not be changed by Catholics who only attend Mass. The world will be changed by Catholics who live the Mass. Come, Holy Spirit. Set our hearts on fire and send us out. Amen