



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Upper Room is still locked.

That's how the Gospel starts today. It's Easter night. The doors are locked "for fear of the Jews." The Apostles are hiding. Peter denied. Thomas doubted. They're alive, but they're not living.

Then Jesus walks through the wall.

He doesn't lecture them. He doesn't say "I told you so."

He says two things: "Peace be with you." And then He breathes on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Fifty days later, those same locked doors blow open. Peter preaches to 3,000. The men who hid from a servant girl now defy the Sanhedrin. What changed? Breath.

In Hebrew, the word for "spirit" is ruah — breath, wind. In Genesis, God breathes into Adam and he becomes alive. At Pentecost, God breathes into the Church and we become alive.

For this coming week I want you to ponder and ask yourself:

1. Where are your locked doors? What room in your life are you keeping Jesus out of? Your marriage? Your internet history? The grudge from 2012? The Holy Spirit can walk through walls. But He waits to be invited.

2. Stop holding your breath. Many of us live baptized but unbreathed. We have the Spirit, but we're living on our own oxygen — anxiety, control, gossip, scrolling. This week, each morning, pray: "Come, Holy Spirit. I give You permission." Then exhale. He's the air.

3. Your Pentecost is for someone else. The Spirit didn't come so you could feel holy. He came so you could speak. Acts 2:4 — "They began to speak... as the Spirit gave them utterance." Who needs to hear from you this week? Your kid? Your coworker? The guy at the gas station? The Spirit gives you words when you open your mouth.

The Church was born not when Jesus died, but when the Spirit breathed... And He's still breathing.

Come, Holy Spirit. Break open our locked doors. Make us alive.

Have a Blessed Pentecost Sunday 2026!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,
Pastor

