



From Dcn. Jerry
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Pentecost: The Fire of the Holy Spirit

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.” These are the first words I say each day as I begin my morning prayer. These words, as we approach the feast of Pentecost, should take on a special meaning for us.

As we read in Acts Chapter 2, the disciples gathered in one place together when the Holy Spirit descended upon them like a strong driving wind filling the house followed by tongues of fire resting on each one of them. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

When we pray, “fill the hearts of your faithful,” we are asking this same Holy Spirit to enter every part of our lives — our thoughts, desires, struggles, relationships, and decisions. We are inviting God not to remain distant, but to dwell within us as guide, strength, and comforter.

And when we pray, “kindle in them the fire of your love,” we are asking for more than emotion or enthusiasm. Fire in Scripture purifies, strengthens, and gives light. The fire of the Holy Spirit burns away selfishness and sin so that our hearts may reflect the love of Christ more fully.

For us as Jesus’ disciples, Pentecost is not merely a remembrance of something that happened long ago. It is a reminder that the Church still lives by the power of the Holy Spirit today. Every baptized Christian is called to continue the mission begun at Pentecost: to proclaim Christ, to serve others, and to witness to the Gospel in daily life.

The Holy Spirit equips us for that mission through His gifts. The traditional seven gifts of the Holy Spirit — wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord — strengthen us to live faithfully as disciples.

Wisdom to help us see life through the eyes of God and focus on those things that truly matter; Understanding to deepen our knowledge of God’s Word and the truths of the faith; Counsel to guide us to make moral decisions according to God’s will; Fortitude to give us courage to persevere in faith despite fear, suffering, or temptation; Knowledge to help us recognize God’s presence and purpose in creation and daily life; Piety to develop a loving relationship with God as our Father and encourage reverence for all people as children of God; and Fear of the Lord to teach us reverence and humility before God, recognizing His greatness and mercy

These gifts are not reserved for saints alone. They are given to every Christian so that we may become more like Christ. The Spirit helps us forgive when forgiveness is difficult, remain hopeful in times of trial, and serve others with compassion and generosity. Through the Spirit, ordinary people become faithful disciples.

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