

FROM FATHER JOHN – “Father of Light, from whom every good gift comes, send your Holy Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds.” ~ Morning Prayer, Solemnity of Pentecost.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!



Today is the Solemnity of Pentecost. As we celebrate Pentecost, we give thanks and praise to our God who sent His son into the world to give us life in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came to the apostles and disciples on Pentecost and gave them the voice to proclaim the Truth of the Gospel. Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to speak out and proclaim the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we have confidence to pray to the Lord our God and place all our needs before our God.

The Second Vatican Council teaches in *Lumen Gentium, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, that “When the Son completed the work with which the Father had entrusted him on earth, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost to sanctify the Church unceasingly, and thus enable believers to have access to the Father through Christ in the one Spirit. He is the Spirit of life, the fountain of water welling up to give eternal life. Through him the Father gives life to men, dead because of sin, until he raises up their mortal bodies in Christ.”

The following is from a treatise, *On the Holy Spirit*, by St. Basil the Great, Bishop. In it, he describes the work of the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit leads us to holiness, a likeness to God and eternal happiness.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

From St. Basil the Great

“The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them, and make him realize that they speak of nothing less than the supreme Being. Is he not called the

Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit? But his principal and most personal title is the Holy Spirit.

To the Spirit all creatures turn in their need for sanctification; all living things seek him according to their ability. His breath empowers each to achieve its own natural end.

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but he gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with himself. As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit shines become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations – we become God.”