

Homily Rerun: June 4, 2017 - Fr Seno

Song

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us,
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.
Use us, mold us, fill us,
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.**



Today my dear people of peace, we celebrate the great event when Jesus filled his Church with His Spirit and sent her to establish his kingdom on earth, the kingdom of love, joy, hope, peace and forgiveness. The Apostles were all in one place together and suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

On one faithful Pentecost Sunday, there was a priest who had wanted to have a dove released at the beginning of his sermon. So some minutes before the Mass, he got a dove and placed it in a cage in the gallery where they have their microphone equipment. He did not know that the house cat also goes there to warm itself there while the set is on. He signaled to one of his Altar servers to go there when he was to start his Homily. He was to release the dove after the third time of saying “Come Holy Spirit”. Not seeing the dove fly into the Church, the priest looked towards the gallery and further signaled the Altar Server to release the dove - No way. After some time, the boy screamed “should I throw the cat down”. The cat had consumed the dove. Dear friends remember always that even without the dove, the Holy Spirit is always with us, pervading our lives constantly. “Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love.” This has happened and it is still happening.

Beloved, in our First Reading (Acts 2:1-11), we joyfully celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. What a privileged people we are! God has send His Spirit to His people “that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). He has fulfilled His promise. The prophecies and longings of the prophets have come to pass. From Isaiah, God declared, “The castle will be forsaken, the noisy city deserted; ... until the spirit from on high is poured out on us. Then will the desert become an orchard and the orchard be regarded as a forest.” (Isa 32:14-15). Through Ezekiel, God promised, “No longer hide my face from them, for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God.” (Ezek 39:29). Through Zechariah, He insisted, “I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition; and they shall look on him whom they have thrust through, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son ...” (Zech 12:10). And from Joel, God proclaimed, “it shall come to pass, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 3:01). Beloved, God’s promise is fulfilled.

Our Gospel passage (Jn 20:19-23) shows the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Reconciliation and peace. Christ lavished the Spirit of Forgiveness on the remorseful apostles. They were in fear and guilt; Christ forgave and set them free, saying: “Peace be with you.... As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” What an opportunity to make our peace with God and neighbor! The Holy Spirit is the “personalized” calling for forgiveness and peace with all. Let us never despair. If anyone remains hardened and fails to repent and forgive, the consequences are very grave. For Christ says, “Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin” (Mark 3:28-29).

Beloved, see how St. Paul declared the reality of the Spirit in our lives in the Second Reading (1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13): “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” Are you conscious of the Holy Spirit in your personal life, in your family life, in the Church, and in the world? You may not exhibit spectacular manifestations of the Spirit, but He is there in you. You may not speak in tongues; or have healing powers or the gift of prophesy or miracles; but, the Spirit is still at work in you. The Holy Spirit is not confined to certain gifts; the many and diverse ministries in our parish are signs of the Holy Spirit at work. Dear friends from toady make the Holy Spirit your number one friend in life.

Our Second Reading rightly points out, “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but for the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” Finally, let us be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We need to stir up the Spirit anew. St. John XXIII declared, ‘Open the doors and windows and let fresh air come in.’ We do not need to suffer any suffocation and grasping for breath. The Spirit has come. Therefore let us hearken to the words of St. Paul to Timothy: “Rekindle the gift of God that is within you” (2Tim 1:6-7)