

PENTECOST –MAY 27, 2012

I –They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.

R –Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

II – In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

A – Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

G –As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

+ Today the entire Church celebrates its birth, and commemorates *the coming of the Holy Spirit with great power* on Mary and the Apostles; and into the hearts of all those who would believe because of their preaching and teaching and be baptized *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*.

On Ascension Thursday (10 days ago) Jesus announced that another *Advocate*, the *Gift of the Father* (and himself) would arrive soon, so that Truth may be firmly rooted now in the world (in the hearts and consciences of the faithful – and everyone else), and that there is now to be achieved no other goal than to experience *the peace that the world cannot give*: the peace which *is* the Spirit, the peace which *is* the forgiveness of sins, the peace and life which *continues to flow forth* from the pierced and Sacred heart of the crucified Christ.

But in order for there to be peace: we must *seek after it, ask for it, and be ready to receive it*, as it wants to *fall upon us* – not according to our own prescriptions, but rather God's. And when it falls on us, it falls *like the dewfall*, to invigorate us, refresh us, enflame us and *move us to ministries of service* among the community of believers: and as St. Paul tells the *Corinthians there are many different gifts and ministries but the one and same Spirit working through all of them to build one Church to glorify God who is one*. All can now be one in Christ: from the many lands, from the many nations. "*Jesus is Lord*" – the One Lord - is the cry of the true Christian; it pierces the darkness of the world like a bolt of lightning – and by it the world can see where it is going, and be renewed from deep down inside – for truth turns everything upside down!

What a spectacle it must have been for *those gathered from many nations* in Jerusalem to hear these twelve men, all Galileans, *speaking to them in their own language* – the one word of Praise, the one word of Victory, the one word of Hope – telling them that the Crucified is very much alive, and that forgiveness of sins must be preached to the ends of the earth! It is such a tragedy in life to carry around baggage and guilt that doesn't really need to be carried anymore – all are invited to be free: free to be who God intended them to be all along – his children, his helpers in building a kingdom of love!

And so, it is up to us who have been baptized, confirmed and ordained to recommit ourselves today to our membership in such an astounding organism, and invite others to join it: the living Body of the Risen Christ; the Mystical Body of Love and Peace; and may our efforts in this coming “work season” of the “green-vestmented time of the Church year” be fragrant, fruitful, and above all, full of the blessings of God upon us!

Holy Spirit,
give us virtue's sure reward;
give us your salvation, Lord;
give us joys that never end. Amen.

ALLELUIA!