

Today is Pentecost Sunday. Today we celebrate the day on which the Church was born. We just heard it from the first reading about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, made evident by an aggressive sound like the rush of a violent wind, by the divided tongues as of fire appeared on the disciples and created the community of believers. They were empowered to share the good news of Jesus to the world in word and deed. That was the beginning of the church, not the church building itself but the community of the believers. So, yes, when we celebrate Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

I was struggling a bit to choose all the good themes that we can take from our gospel text today about the Holy Spirit. Do I talk about the Holy Spirit as an advocate, the Spirit of truth who accompanies us in our life- journey? or do I focus in the first reading about the Spirit as a mighty wind, poured out upon us, taking over our very languages? Or do I simply just remind us about we are indeed led by the Spirit of God and we are therefore children of God? I wasn't sure!

I can't decide but I am leaning toward of us being reminded that **there is a Spirit; that it's worth some of our faith attention.** There is a Spirit that it actually might make a difference for how we see God at work in our lives. Hmmm! What in the world am I talking about? one may ask!

See, by now, you all should know that I am a down to earth person and I view and approach things in a very pragmatic way! In other words, what I am trying to say about the work of the Holy Spirit within us, in our lives to be noticed by us, is that we may have **to look for it intentionally and we may have to concentrate and to be deliberate to notice the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.** One way to do that is to think back at the end of each day of what transpired during that day and what might be related to the work of the Holy Spirit!

By the way, I used to suggest to my patients who came to see me as they couldn't sleep when I was still practicing, to try various things to do while they were still awake at odd hours 2:00 or 3:00 am or so, such as reading a book, or sleep in the dark, with no radio or TV or whatever. I did that instead of just giving them pills to take. And if these didn't help, I would ask them to think back about the day while trying to sleep, and to retrace everything from the time they woke up until the bedtime period. Some of them came back and told me that while they were retracing their days from waking up, then going to the bathroom, and brushing their teeth and, the phone rang, and on to breakfast and that was all because they dozed up already....That is beside the point but yes, retracing your days and connecting it, is one way to notice the work of the Holy Spirit, everyday or once a week or however you want to do it. Or you may have your own way to see how the Holy Spirit is active in your life and stick with it!

I am not a musician but one thing I see from them is that in order for them to play a piece of music, they have to practice it over and over again. They would try many different techniques and make a choice but the most important thing for them is that they enjoy doing it. What I am saying is that **understanding makes possible the possibility. We have to be driven and to do our best in order to see the good result.** And that is valid in any field. That's why this morning, I want us to really think deep, to pay attention and to focus a little in order for us to see the work of the Holy Spirit active in our life. Of course the Holy Spirit' presence in our life is not dependent of our determination to see it. The Holy Spirit is there, whether we want it to be or

not. The Holy Spirit is there, whether we think it's there or not. But, focusing on the Holy Spirit work in our life is what we are challenged this morning and you will see the difference. It is worth doing it anyway!

Because here is the thing Trinity members, Pentecost didn't just happened once, a long, long time ago. There are plenty of stories in the Bible which represents a repetition and extension of the power of the Holy Spirit that started at Pentecost but continues throughout the history of the early church and the church today. To name of few examples, remember when Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), or Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-19), or Peter's "conversion" to a more universal understanding of Christianity in his encounter with Cornelius (Acts 10).

The flourishing of the monastic communities in the middle ages, the Reformation and more are all great examples and even today. But the most important thing is the work of the Holy Spirit in our local context. I invite you to be focused and to see in our church and among yourselves the work of the Holy Spirit. **That is the objective of the Pentecost project for us. We are invited to share how is the Holy Spirit active in our lives!**

I don't remember if I have told you this before, but I found the greatest and meaningful bible verses, for me, in the book of Romans chapter 8 in its entirety. I invite you to please read Romans chapter 8 on your own leisure time. Read and reflect on each verse. It is so powerful. We have three verses out of Romans 8 today, *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ"* (Rom. 8:14-17a).

What a lovely verse to remind us that we are not only God's children, but also heirs, and not just heirs, but co-heirs with Christ. Wow! That is something Trinity members. Isn't that amazing? but here is the thing: What does it mean for us to live knowing we are God's beloved children, adopted and chosen and named co-heirs with Christ? What difference does it make NOW in our life? What difference does it make to know that we are unconditionally loved? What difference does it make to know that we have immeasurable value in God's eyes? What difference does it make to know that no matter what to do – or is done to us – and no matter where we go, yet God always loves us and cares about us?

On this Pentecost's Sunday, God wants us to know again and again that we have the Spirit of Adoption. **God wants us to have the confidence that we have been chosen, accepted, and loved for who we are.** And we have to overcome the fear.

Today, we are celebrating and giving thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the One who came and continues to come to remind us of God's love for us in Jesus Christ; the One who comes amid all kinds of fears to remind us that our future is in God's hands; the One that calls us out to share God's love to this world that God loves so much.

Thank you God for giving us the Spirit of courage, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of the living Christ.  
Amen.