



Pentecost

The Gospel on Pentecost Sunday includes three words: “Spirit, Peace, Joy” – something that everyone is searching for but few seem to find. Instead of “Spirit” many people find boredom, which can lead to discouragement and/or depression. Instead of “Peace” many people find turmoil. They are afraid, angry and distrustful. Instead of “Joy” many people find sadness. What many people need to learn is that becoming a spirited, peaceful and joyful person, in the Christian sense, is not accomplished so much by doing as it is by being.

Sometimes what we need to do is let go and let God. We can let go of our fear, anger and distrust and let God fill us with the Holy Spirit: the spirit of love, joy and peace. One of the biggest mistakes many people make in attempting to make our world a better place in which to live is to try doing everything by themselves, without anyone’s (including God’s) help. A good starting point is a prayer such as the following:

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.”

The good news is that Pentecost does not only happen in church on a specific Sunday. It happens wherever we are, whenever we open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit. The “Come Holy Spirit” prayer may not provide an instant solution to our problems but it will set us in the right direction. The Holy Spirit does not disqualify us from experiencing the cross. The promise of the Spirit, however, is that we will come through the pain of the cross to the joy of the resurrection. So what does Pentecost mean to us today? It means we have a choice. We can choose to be spirited, at peace and joyful.

The first Pentecost, 2000 years ago, was just the beginning of many Pentecosts to follow. The Holy Spirit is available to us today on this Pentecost Sunday as well. Just as the disciples let go of their fears and were “filled with joy”, so we can experience the same. Jesus, who said “Peace be with you” to the disciples so long ago, is saying the same to us today. The Holy Spirit is God’s presence to us today. What a wonderful gift we have!

Father David

Congratulations to the Newly Ordained Priests of the Diocese of Joliet!

On May 27th, Bishop Conlon ordained two men, Mark Bernhard and John Honiotes, to the priesthood for ministry in the Joliet Diocese. We congratulate them and wish them the very best as they begin their priestly ministry. Please keep Fr. Mark and Fr. John in your prayers.