

Today is Pentecost Sunday: a celebration of the 3rd Person of the Trinity and the 3rd of the Glorious mysteries of the Church. It is the celebration of the birth (and official inauguration) of the Church – the Body of Christ. Today, Our Blessed Mother and the Apostles received the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus. Though with many names like the Advocate, the Paraclete and Power from on High, we still struggle on the right understanding of this Solemnity. Our simple comprehension of the Holy Spirit tends to be conditioned by extra ordinary things that occurred in Luke's Acts of the Apostles account of this event. The captions of the Readings will help us get a better understanding.

The caption for the 1st Reading is **“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.”**

The power to speak is what we exercise when a new life is given. This explains why Luke starts the narration of this event with **“When the day of Pentecost had come...”** almost like the first sentence in the Book of Genesis **“In beginning to create, God created...”** Pentecost being a great celebration of the Jews to mark their arrival at Sinai and Moses bringing to them the spoken word of God, the LAW to renew their (our) lives, occurred amidst the events Luke described. The birth of the Church (the Body of Christ) with the power from on High cannot happen without **‘a sound from heaven like the rush of a violent wind’**. Jesus gives us the New Commandment (a summary of the Old) to change our hearts – to do good by following the impulses coming from inside: the Holy Spirit. It appeared as

“...divided tongues, as of fire... and a tongue rested on each of them.”

Without a tongue you/I cannot speak. Though interesting is the ability to speak in other languages (the Church born in so many languages), but more interesting and important is what they spoke,

“...in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.”

What is that? The answer is God's Love. His love gave us salvation (in Egypt, in the wilderness, in Exile, on the Cross, from death) and made us his sons and daughters. This is the COMPLETE TRUTH.

The caption for the 2nd Reading is, **“In the one Spirit we were all baptised.”**

For St. Paul, speaking is the main signature or moniker of the Holy Spirit.

“Brothers and Sisters: No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

This power of speech gives meaning and reality to varieties of gifts, services and activities which all about human life is based. It is seen in the Blessed Trinity and for one purpose: the common good.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit (Holy Spirit); and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord (Jesus Christ); and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God (Our Father) who activities all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Through the Spirit there is a union that is mirrored by the body, **“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”**

This quote explains our union with Christ who is the Head. The moniker reveals our total acceptance of Christ through the Spirit – our birth from Christ through the Holy Spirit.

“For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body (the Church)

– Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

The Gospel caption is **“As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit.”**

In these Words of Jesus, his ministry of speaking and living out God's Love must be our mission and ministry. God's Love is everything we need to have, know, remember and offer to others. The presence of the Love of God grants forgiveness while the absence retains sins.

As we celebrate Pentecost today, let us with the Psalmist sing

“Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”

Christ has breathed on us the Church, so with the Holy Spirit to continue to live in God's LOVE,

“May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.”