**Pentecost, Cycle. C. 2025**

**Archbishop Anthony Bloom of (United Kingdom, born in 1914, died in 2003, writer and broadcaster on Christian life)** recalls the time when he was discussing Christianity with a learned Japanese writer. The writer told Bloom: “***I think I understand about the Father and the Son but I can never understand the significance of the honorable bird”.*** The Holy Spirit traditionally pictured as a dove, eludes you like a wind: you hear but you do not know where it comes and where it goes. But you know when it’s the attention of the scholars and preachers like a bird in flight resists capture. **We cannot capture the Spirit or cage Him, allowing Him to limp out on a special occasions like Baptism and Confirmatio**n. The honorable bird is still in flight, like the sound around us suggesting life, movement and energy.

**God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to save the world. The Son loved the world so much that he sent His own Spirit**. After the Ascension of Christ, the Church continues His work. For which, the power was given her in the spectacular outpouring of the **Holy Spirit on Pentecost** day. With the Ascension, the acts of Christ came to an end. **With Pentecost the Acts of the Apostles of the Church began**. When the apostles- after receiving the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead-began their work, people amazed and asked: **Are they drunk? Yes, the Apostles were drunk with the living water Christ had promised them, the Holy Spirit** (Jn.7: 38-39).

When we breathe our last, we die. A body without breath is dead. Without the spirit of Christ, the Church, the body of Christ, is dead. Similarly each individual Christian who makes up the body of **Christ is dead without the Sp**irit. Baptism makes members of Christ’s’ body, the Church. Just as Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church because of the outpouring of the Spirit upon her, **the day of Baptism for a Christian is his birthday in the Church, because on that day he is given the Spirit.**

**The first fruit of the outpouring of the Spirit on the apostles was fearlessness**. Before, they were mere men, huddled together in an upper room for fear of the Jews. The coming of the spirit transformed them into **bold apostles**. Now they ventured out into the open and proclaimed boldly-though warned against the pain of death-, accused of murder the same men they were once afraid, and exhorted them to repent.

**The Second fruit was jo**y. The apostles were now glad to suffer, and rejoice in their sufferings for Christ. Having the Spirit of the Risen Lord, whom should they fear? Why should they be sad? **Fearlessness and joy are a Christians’ birth-right.**

In a world where nations are divided by rival systems of Politics and economics, groups within nations are divided by class consciousness and conflicts, and families are in increasingly divided by divorce and misunderstandings, **the quest for unity and peace is indispensable.** However, the realization of this hope seems to be distant and dim. But of all the people in the world, the Christians have the best reason to be hopeful, for the **story of the Pentecost is the story of a forc**e drawing people together in unity, empowering them to resist the forces which were destroying them. **To celebrate Pentecost i**s to revive our hope and to reproduce Pentecost now would be to fulfill that hope.

**Pentecost is the feast of God dwelling within us. His Spirit fills our very minds, hearts and bodies.** Pentecost is also the feast of God’s dwelling between ourselves and Christ, ourselves and the Father in Heaven. The Spirit is in our relationships to each other, to Christ and to the Father. The Spirit is what holds us together. It is found in our fidelity to our commitments. It is found in the love that passes between us, in the love and fidelity we have to Christ and to his word. Our responsible actions and our words, our care for each other and concern- **that is the Spirit of Pentecost living un us.**

There are two things that invariably get people together: a **common danger and a common d**evotion. Danger drives them together, but devotion draws together all who voluntarily choose it. Christians are people who are drawn together by a common devotion. The **Spirit of God descends** on the people who are united in prayer and total surrender. **This is the message of Pentecost.** Every time we say: “***I believe in the Holy Spirit***”: we mean that we believe there is a living God, able and willing to enter human personality and change it. So let us pray that the **Holy Spirit make us aware of our gifts and enable us to use them to build up the Church**.