

6/9/19

Acts 2: 1-12, Gal 5: 16-25, John 20:19-23

The wind of the Spirit

We celebrate the solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. That event marked the beginning of the Church and signified the start of a mission, which has continued till today. Our Church was born on the day of Pentecost, hurray! The feast of Pentecost was an ancient Jewish feast that commemorated the giving of the Law on mount Sinai. On this day that commemorated the giving of the Law, God as it were, has given his people the 'new law' of the Spirit.

The wind of the spirit. It is as gentle as the breath of the risen Lord, which falls on the disciples and bestows on man the original power to be a living soul (John 20:19-23). Again, the rushing wind of the Spirit awakens the human spirit and revives it as was at the valley of dry bones; a great power that deals decisively with any situation of death and dryness (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

The effect of the Spirit is absolutely transformational!

The Holy Spirit is not a destructive wind, I am talking about the creative power of God's spirit. It moves us from fear to courage, from ignorance to knowledge and from powerlessness to powerfulness, from sinfulness to holiness, from prayerlessness to prayerfulness and from fruitlessness to fruitfulness. This experience of transformation formed the basis of the new community, the Church. The Holy Spirit is the advocate, comforter, counselor and help in time of need. He is the breath of life for the Church. We must admit that we all need conversion to the Holy Spirit. From the second Vatican council till now, the Popes have not stopped to call the Church to open its doors to the Spirit. We must heed those calls in our various Churches and in our personal lives.

The wind of the Spirit blows away every form of numbness, healing our inability to speak and hear God's words of peace and love. That is why each of those gathered who were gathered on the day of Pentecost could hear the apostle's proclamation in his or her own language about the mighty works the Lord has done. Our capacity to hear God's word and proclaim it in our lives is a clear manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The fruits we produce, as St. Paul lists them in the second reading are all manifestations of the Holy

Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.