**“Holy Spirit in the Upper Room”**

Pentecost marks the 50th day after the resurrection of our Lord. It was the time the promise of the Father, the Holy spirit was poured on the disciples in the Upper Room where they had been praying. The light of the Holy Spirit inflamed their hearts and minds and they could speak in different languages.

Pentecost was also celebrated in the ancient Jewish calendar. Pentecost was the feast of the weeks. This feast is still celebrated today by the Jews in thanksgiving to God for the first fruits of their harvest. It was also a time the Jews honor as the day Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai.

This gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, was for the building of the Church. As we heard in our first reading, everyone of them could speak and proclaiming the Gospel in different tongues in according to the will of the Holy Spirit. So all those who were their could understand them.

We also received this gift of the Holy Spirit during our Confirmation. Though each and everyone of us might not speak in different tongues, we as the one body of Christ do speak in tongues all over the world as the Catholic Church is all over the world. The Catholic Church is the Universal Church which is all over the world. That is why we need to be part of the Church Christ started.

One would wonder why the disciples received the Holy Spirit twice! As I hinted last week, Jesus also gave them the Holy Spirit as we heard in our Gospel reading today. That gift of the Holy Spirit was for a specific purpose. It was for the forgiveness and retaining of sins of those who repent and those who do not repent of their sins.

That special gift is still present in the Church today in the Sacrament of reconciliation. It is a gift that I hope everyone of us is making use of. If it is not important, Jesus Christ in His infinite wisdom would not have given it to us just before He was about to leave this world to return to His Father. I do not know why Christ passed on this gift to His apostles so they can pass it on to their successors. But I know the gift is for our benefit.

My brothers and sisters, there are more gifts that we received through the Holy Spirit, ***council, fear or wonder of God, fortitude, knowledge, piety, wisdom, understanding.*** These are gifts we receive during our confirmation.

How do we make use of these gifts in our lives? Do we use them or do we bury them and ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit? Do we ignore them because we are afraid of what we perceive God might ask us to do or give up to fully follow Christ or do we accept them by dying to self? It is when we die to self or empty ourselves that we can bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The twelve fruit of the Holy Spirit that the Church has identified are: ***joy, peace, patience, love, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, modesty, self-control, and chastity*** (CCC 1832). These fruits of the Spirit help us to be Christ like. It is then we can radiate Christ’s love and forgiveness. It is when we have these gifts, that we can recognize our littleness and our dependency on God’s mercy. It is then we can show mercy to others. It is then our joy will be complete in Christ.

 As we come to receive Christ in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for those gifts of the Spirit that we might still lack in our lives.