

Rectoría San Juan de Dios  
Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A  
Acts 2, 1-11; Ps 104; 1 Cor 12, 3-7.12-13; Jn 20, 19-23  
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## Let Us Encourage the World

The experience of life that the Holy Spirit gives can be compared with a new creation. At Pentecost, we discover that “creation and redemption” belong together. Our faith in the creator Spirit and the faith in the Spirit that the risen Christ gave to the Apostles and that He gives to each one of us are inseparably united.

The divine breath that John writes of in his Gospel leads us to the substance of creation, when God breathed the breath of life into man (cf Gn 2, 7). Now Jesus breathes over the apostles and continues breathing into our souls with His breath of resurrection. He gives us the Holy Spirit and rebirth in order to bring us into the divine family.

Let us choose this idea that can awaken in our inner being a force that we have not allowed to operate. Let us ask ourselves: How strong is our spiritual life? It is important to think about it because the world needs to be encouraged by us, especially when we can see that it lives with little of this spiritual strength. Instead, it lives with a spirit that is putrefied or on the verge of collapse.

At times we use this expression: “I want to encourage my friend, this family, or such and such a group.” What do we mean when we say that we are going to encourage someone? I think that we mean that we are

going to share our interior breath of the Holy Spirit, the inspiration that the risen Jesus has breathed into our souls.

On Pentecost, we want to encourage the world, but how? Let us try these three ideas:

1-Let us testify to the fulfillment of the promises of Christ.

This is best done if we are gathered together, as the disciples were fifty days after Easter, with a single purpose: to share the new life and the mission of Jesus. This means setting aside our own plans in favor of the mission of Jesus.

The same message must be announced in every tongue; let us allow the Spirit to lead us. We are little accustomed to that and, at times, we don't know how to understand the outpouring of the breath of life that we have received.

The strong wind and the fire that Luke has used to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit (cf Acts 2, 2-3) reminds us of Mount Sinai (cf Ex 19, 18) when smoke arose from the mountain because God had descended on it to make His covenant with the people of Israel. To testify to the fulfillment of the promises of Christ, He allows us to make a new covenant written by the Spirit in the heart of whoever believes in Christ.

What testimony of the Spirit do I give that animates my new life?

2-Let us form one body with the gifts that we have received.

The Holy Spirit is first of all unity; the gifts that we have received have the same origin and the same end: to benefit the common good. Through our gifts and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are bound together as one body.

We must form this body by contributing our gifts, confident that the Spirit creates fundamental equality without destroying diversity.

If we allow our gifts to develop in service until they reach the perfection of love, we will be reborn by the divine breath of the Spirit.

3-Let us live as consecrated people.

At times we set aside this spiritual reality that we carry in the most intimate part of our being. It is almost incomprehensible that, having received the outpouring of the Spirit of God, we live as if we don't have it, but it is true.

Much of the time, we give the impression that we are "clandestine disciples," like the disciples on the evening of the day of the Resurrection, hiding behind a locked door, in fear and helplessness. It is crucial that on this Pentecost we understand that Jesus fills us with His own spirit and creates in us a new human nature, the nature of the Spirit.

We are consecrated, born anew for a life of truth and liberty that has no limits. Let us encourage the world.