

LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

With these words from Psalm 104, we join the voice of the whole Church, which joyfully celebrates the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We have spent 50 days on the Easter journey preparing our hearts to receive this gift from on high.

We are not celebrating a nostalgic memory of an event that occurred more than 2,000 years ago, nor are we celebrating wondrous signs like wind and fire and the diversity of languages.

We celebrate the love of God, manifested in Jesus Christ at different times. Beginning with his Incarnation, followed by the moment of his sorrowful Passion, where out of love he gave himself for the salvation of each one of us; and that same love leads him to plead with the Heavenly Father that we may receive the presence of God's very life within us.

The Holy Spirit is not an energy, but a person; the third person of the Holy Trinity, who makes himself present in his Church to renew it, revitalize it, and impel it to live in love. Therefore, we can affirm that today we celebrate another year of the birth of the Church, which was represented by the disciples gathered in prayer and accompanied by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

They received this power from on high, which impelled them on their mission.

It is this same Spirit that is present in each of the sacraments of the Church; it is the Spirit that inspires charity to care for those most in need; it is the grace that moves us to grant forgiveness to those who offend us.

Today more than ever, we need this divine fire to set our hearts ablaze with love for God and love for our neighbor.

Let us open our hearts and pray fervently: COME HOLY SPIRIT, AND IGNITE OUR HEARTS WITH THE FLAME OF YOUR LOVE...

MARY, FLAME OF GRACE, GRANT US THIS BLESSING.