

May 31, 2009—7am and 8:30am
Pentecost Sunday—Year B
Father David Lawrence

My dear friends in Christ, as we gather this morning for the celebration of the feast of Pentecost our hearts are filled with longing for the coming of the Holy Spirit that was promised by Jesus before his glorious Ascension into heaven. In today's gospel we hear Jesus promising that the Spirit of truth whom he will send will guide us into all truth. We also hear in other passages that this same spirit brings about the forgiveness of sins and true peace.

And even though this Holy Spirit descended upon the Church at Pentecost 2000 years ago and continually moves within her even today, we still want more of the Holy Spirit. But how? How can we get more of the Holy Spirit? Having already been Baptized and Confirmed the Holy Spirit is already within us. So the key to getting more of the power of the Holy Spirit flowing in our lives lies in our minds and wills. We of course need to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit like the Apostles and Mary did, but this really does more to open up our hearts and minds than it does cause God to do something new. And once our minds and hearts are open anew, they need to be strong to catch the Holy Spirit. Like sails catching a wind, the first need to be hoisted up, that is opened up through prayer and then they need to remain strong and not tear away from the mast or be blown through with holes and rips when the wind blows. It takes both humility and fortitude to be docile to the Holy Spirit.

Now we all know that the essential power of the Holy Spirit is the power of love, because God is love and the Holy Spirit is God. And that sheds light on how the Holy Spirit can accomplish his great tasks in our lives. Love of the truth will naturally push us to seek the truth in all of our activities. We hunger for more truth than the TV can give us. We desire the whole truth that is only found in Jesus Christ himself. Likewise the Love of the Holy Spirit moves us to love our neighbors and even our enemies since we have been given the power to forgive. And it is by that same power that we have our only hope for true peace in our world. Finally the love of the Holy Spirit will empower us to overcome the language barriers that keep us apart from each other, and I'm not just talking about English and Spanish, there are other communication barriers that need to be melted by the Holy Spirit in

our lives. All together the Holy Spirit moves us to a unity in the New Jerusalem that is the spotless bride of Christ.

One last observation about the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In today's gospel we heard Jesus telling us that the Holy Spirit would testify to him and that you also will testify. The word that St. John actually used in his Gospel that is translated here as testify is *marturesei*. It is the root word for martyr. When the Holy Spirit gets a hold of us he fires us up so that we can become a complete gift to others. We are wholly animated and consumed with love and even though this costs us everything, we get more in return than we can possibly imagine.