

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11    Romans 8:8-17    John 14:15-16. 23-26

Today the Church celebrates **the great Solemnity of Pentecost.**

- NB: The word Pentecost is taken from the Greek which **means “The 50<sup>th</sup> Day”** as it is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday and officially closes the Easter Season.

On that 50<sup>th</sup> Day we heard from the first reading from Acts of the Apostles that while disciples were in one place together.

- **“Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind...and tongues as of fire which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages”**

Since that day this has been the work of the Church up to now:

The one Church in its unity speaks in every tongue.

And so if anyone says to you, **“You have received the Holy Spirit, why don’t you speak in tongues?”**

You should reply, **“I do speak in every tongue. For I am in the body of Christ, the church, which speaks in every tongue”**

What happened at Pentecost was the birth of the Church, a new creation.

- ❖ This was God doing something new.
- ❖ **Just as at Christmas** we celebrate the **birthday of Christ** in His Physical Body, today on Pentecost Day we are celebrating the **“Birthday of the Church”** when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples to enable them to speak.

So Church, this is your birthday: **‘Happy birthday to you!’**

**NB:** If there is nobody celebrating their birthday this week, there is a sure birthday of the Church and we are bound to sing **“Happy Birthday**

**Church!”** at the end of Mass

- Over 2000 years old is no joke!

**Q: So besides the birth of the Church why else is the Spirit given?**

We find the answer in last week’s 1<sup>st</sup> reading just before Jesus ascended into heaven as He told the disciples then, and tells us now, **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.”**

Not everyone in here may turn out to be Speakers like the disciples of Jesus but the Holy Spirit is **given us to be witnesses** where we are:

- It is through the Spirit that we can do things that the world says we can’t or we don’t think we can: through the Spirit **we can trust in God when things are very difficult or confusing;**
- it is through the Spirit that we can live **chaste lives until marriage**, then **live faithful to one person** in body and in mind as husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage;
- it is through the Spirit that **we can live in truth** avoiding any kind of dishonesty;
- it is through the Spirit that **we don’t give in to peer pressure** when supposedly everyone else is doing it;
- **we can treat everyone with the dignity** they deserve while standing up for the truth of Church teaching;
- **we can forgive;** we can **love those who are difficult to love;** and
- it is through the Spirit that we can **live as the Catholic men and women we are called to be...**the list goes on and on.

But it is **up to us to receive the Spirit, // to be open to Him and // to allow Him** to dwell within us.

He will not force Himself upon us...**He waits to be invited.**

We must invite Him every day.