

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Being Fearless

This is what the Holy Spirit gives the Apostles in the Gospel this weekend. Peter and his friends receive tongues as if made from fire and begin speaking and understanding every language present in the crowds around them. The people hear them and are astonished, not just because they can understand them, but also because they are speaking at all. And what they are saying is something that they had never understood before: Jesus of Nazareth was the Anointed one of God, the Messiah. The Spirit empowered Peter and the Apostles to proclaim truth to the nations by helping them overcome their anxiety and have the freedom to express themselves, to courageously build new relationships, and to be fearless.

We don't need to learn a new language like French or Spanish to experience what the apostles experienced. How often are we fearless in speaking languages of justice, compassion, and solidarity to one another? How often do we speak words of compassion to those who think differently than us, whom we consider the "other"? What keeps us trembling in the upper room, unable to speak the truth of God's love to the world? Let us take the Apostles example this weekend and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, be fearless in the way that our words make God's love present in this world.

Fr Naz, 31/5/20