

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we celebrate the Feast of PENTECOST today, it is important that we note that this day is a fulfillment of a promise that Christ gave to His Apostles at the Last Supper. As they gathered for one final Passover meal, our Lord explained to them that He would be leaving them, He would not be abandoning them – He would send them the Holy Spirit, Who would guide them in all things. When Jesus was about to return to His Heavenly Home, He instructed the Apostles to go back to Jerusalem and wait.

Obediently, they did what they were told. With the rushing of a mighty wind and the appearance of tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit entered the Upper Room where the Apostles were patiently waiting and came into their hearts. The Holy Spirit changed them instantly from timid, fearful men into fearless witnesses for Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and shared their first-hand knowledge of the Risen Lord, and 3,000 people became Christians that very day because of what they heard.

When we think of Pentecost, there is a great danger of simply viewing it as an event that happened in the life of the Apostles. The Holy Spirit did NOT come solely to these 12 men. The Spirit comes to ALL OF US, and we are all capable of receiving the same power, enthusiasm, joy and excitement for spreading the Word of God that the Apostles were given. The Holy Spirit came to us on the day of our baptism. When we pray fervently, the Holy Spirit comes to us. Every time we come to confession, the Holy Spirit comes to us. Every time we receive the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit comes to us.

We must remember that we are given a great responsibility that goes along with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. We are charged to do what the Apostles were asked to do: *“Go and teach all nations!”* We know what the Apostles were able to accomplish for Christ and His Church through Grace of the Holy Spirit. How about us? What are we doing?