

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Gospel: Saint John 14: 23-31

43.1 First Point

The holy apostles remained in seclusion and applied themselves to prayer²⁹² from the Ascension of Jesus Christ until the day of Pentecost. This was a feast that the Jews celebrated in memory of the giving of the Old Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

On this day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and on all those who were gathered together with them²⁹³ in the large upper room. He came to bring them a new law, the law of grace and love, and poured himself out upon them like a strong, driving wind.²⁹⁴

This was to show that just as God in creating man had,²⁹⁵ as Scripture expresses it, breathed into him the breath of life,²⁹⁶ so too, in communicating a new life to his disciples to live only by grace, he breathed into them his divine Spirit to give them some share in his own divine life.

The Spirit of God should also come and rest upon you on this sacred day to make it possible for you to live and to act only by his action in you. Draw him within you by offering him a well-disposed heart.

43.2 Second Point

The Acts of the Apostles tell us that this wind, the symbol of the Spirit of God who poured himself out upon the disciples of Jesus Christ, filled the entire house. This illustrated what is said immediately afterward, that those who were gathered there were all filled with the Holy Spirit.²⁹⁷ At that moment the holy apostles received such an abundance of grace that all Jerusalem was filled with the sound of their voices.²⁹⁸ They spoke about nothing except the risen Jesus Christ. They had the words of Sacred Scripture constantly on their lips, and these words served to guide them in all they did.

They had all fled after seeing Christ die on the cross; they had gone into hiding, afraid of death. But after receiving the Holy Spirit, they came together again and gathered in the same place; there they encouraged each other and urged one another to suffer for the name of Jesus Christ. In such suffering they considered themselves blessed, and rejoiced.²⁹⁹

You need the fullness of the Spirit of God in your state, for you should live and be guided only according to the spirit and the light of faith; it is only the Spirit of God who can give you this disposition.

43.3 Third Point

The Acts of the Apostles adds that when the disciples were all gathered together, there appeared to them separate tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them. Immediately they began to speak in various languages, according to the grace given to them by the Holy Spirit.³⁰⁰

An amazing thing! that these men, up to then so earthly-minded that they could not grasp the sacred truths that Jesus Christ taught them, were all at once so enlightened that they could now explain clearly and with all imaginable accuracy the words of Holy Scripture. As a result those present were completely surprised and filled with amazement,³⁰¹ and in little time they converted a very great number of them,³⁰² because, as Saint Peter told them, the Spirit of God had been poured out upon them.³⁰³

You carry out a work that requires you to touch hearts, but this you cannot do except by the Spirit of God. Pray to him to give you today the same grace he gave the holy apostles, and ask him that, after filling you with his Holy Spirit to sanctify yourselves, he also communicate himself to you in order to procure the salvation of others.

292 Acts 1:13-14
293 Acts 1:1-4
294 Jer 31:33-34; Rom 8:2
295 Acts 2:2
296 Gn 2:7
297 Acts 2:2-4

298 Acts 2:5-6
299 Acts 5:41
300 Acts 2:3-4
301 Acts 2:12
302 Acts 2:41
303 Acts 2:33