

## Homily Pentecost Sunday Year C 2022

On Pentecost day in Jerusalem crowds of people of different nationalities were astonished to hear the apostles and disciples speaking in their own language. The real miracle however, through the work of the Spirit, was that the hearers heard a message they understood. A message that changed their whole lives - the Good News of Jesus Christ. This was a language that they really understood. Imagine the joy, love and thanksgiving with which the apostles spoke of a message that came straight from their hearts. All their previous fears had gone completely. They possessed a newfound peace that set their hearts free, wanting to share their joy with all who were ready and open to receive it. The Holy Spirit did the rest.

Paul tells us that we all receive the gift of the Spirit in different ways and that only together can we discover the true power and strength of that Spirit. Whenever we share our gifts, it opens us to the gifts within others that both connects us and unites us. In sharing the Good News, we therefore grow stronger not weaker.

What happened to the apostles and disciples in the upper room on that Pentecost day was that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, set them free from all their fears, their past failures, their ignorance and misunderstanding of Jesus teaching. The Spirit enabled them to move forward with the realisation of their deep, deep love of Jesus. The Spirit filled them with confidence. They now knew that they journeyed with the Spirit. This is the same Spirit we have received. The Spirit renews the presence of God in our lives, giving us new hope, new joy, new peace and a new sense of belief. We now know that, wherever we go, whatever we do, think or pray in the future, the Spirit will be present. The Holy Spirit has come. The Holy Spirit is present. The Holy Spirit is in you and has come to stay.

Macrina Wiederkehr osb reminds us that in Baptism we become a tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, so, *"when you come to understand this old, yet often forgotten truth, you will know what is meant by the words 'heaven on earth.' This is it. You are beginning to live heaven on earth in the Divine that is dwelling within you. You, frail earth-creature, having given your frailty over to God, you have created a place of splendour within the depths of your being, a holy and eternal space where you meet God face to face. Cherish this truth. It is a costly grace."*

*Holy Spirit, fill me with your power and your peace so that I might travel fearlessly through the process of becoming life-giving and nourishing to others. Life-giving Spirit... help me become the Child of God I was created to be!*

**A man goes into a pet shop** to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical parrots on a perch and says, *"The parrot on the left costs £500."*

*"Why does the parrot cost so much?"* asks the man. The owner says *"Well that parrot knows how to use a computer."*

The man then asks about the next parrot and is told that it costs £1,000 because it can do everything the first parrot can do plus it knows how to write computer machine code. Naturally, the increasingly curious man asks about the third parrot, only to be told that it costs £2,000.

Needless to say, the man asks, *"Wow! What can this parrot do?"*

To which the owner replies, *"To be honest I have never seen it do anything but the other two parrots call him **BOSS!**"*