

Pentecost Homily by Fr. Gabor 2019

Pentecost is considered as the birth of the Church. Why? Because the one who gives life to everything, the Holy Spirit, the life-giving breath of God fills the community of the apostles with new life; with energy; enthusiasm, strength, the freedom to speak, peace, wisdom and a real urge from the heart to share this new life; this explosion of new life. Even the place where the apostles gather together comes alive: a strong wind blows, the earth quakes; the tongues of the apostles is loosened and praise of God and witness braves forth from their mouth. Public witnessing to God's love and mercy and the gathering of the scattered children of God begins on a global scale and has been ongoing since then through the Church over the centuries; especially through members who are not only Saints, but ordinary active members who are ready to make real sacrifices; who hunger and thirst for this new life; for the Holy Spirit, the living water whom Jesus offers freely, and are filled with the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit and make their lives a living witness of His power. These are not people who merely gather for praise and worship and communion, but also go out of their comfort zone and give witness to their families, colleagues and others. So there is a shift from mere prayer and communion towards active witness. I think most of the Church today retreated to gatherings behind walls, which was characteristic of the disciples before Pentecost.

For various reasons I can understand If you feel quite shy about giving witness to your faith, or don't know how to do it, or are afraid what people would think of you when you give witness to Jesus, or if your faith is weak, if you don't know what is God's plan for your life; if you face difficult life decisions and don't know how to discern what God wants you to do; if you feel distant from God; if your relationship with Jesus is impersonal. But today Jesus says to you: it's time to come out of your religious protective shell! I want to give you more than what you have got so far behind the walls. Don't focus too much on yourself, on what you can do or can't at present, because your life is not about you; it's about the life, love and mercy of the Father; and I can give you that life, that living water, if you ask for it, if you thirst for it, if you hunger for it, because Pentecost is not over; it wasn't just a one off event 2000 years ago; it is offered to you every day, it happens today. You just have to ask for it and open yourself to receive it. We tend to relapse into comfortable Christianity without realising that there is more to spiritual life than what we experience.

The Lord Jesus wants to breathe new life into your dry spiritual bones, he wants our sleepwalking Church members to be renewed, come alive, walk again and experience Pentecost on a personal level; He wants to baptise or fill you with the Holy Spirit; He wants you to be an enthusiastic, spirited witness of Him who recognises the voice of the Holy Spirit in your conscience and want to follow it freely. But before that He wants you to clear off all the spiritual

clutters that you fill your life with, that are not from Him, that you use to numb your heart's desire for real, fulfilling love; He wants to give you the Spirit instead who fills your heart's desire with a heart to heart intimacy with the Holy Trinity; and then to pass on the joy of that intimacy. This is what happened at the first Pentecost. The apostles were not taken over by the Spirit, but were desperate to share what filled their hearts, the intimate love of the Holy Trinity.

Imagine what the Church would be like if we all enthusiastically desired to be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and would do everything we could to make Christ known to people, both through our life example (like these young people from Canada), and through the Church's teaching and through the many miracles that would accompany our witnessing to Christ. Imagine that all Catholic parents put God, Family and Church as their first priority and not the pursuit of work and more and more money, as if money would make a family happy. Imagine that members of the Church live in harmony with one another and seek to know each other's struggle, and sacrificed anything to help each other after Mass, instead of simply walking home not even knowing the name of the one who is sitting near you. I think you agree that the Church's life would be a very different story.

But don't be discouraged, because somewhere inside we are all young; our spirit does not grow old, it is immortal; and the Holy Spirit wants to bring out our heart's youthfulness: we just have to dare to be imaginative; creative and willing to do great things for the world; like young people are and dare to face challenges; this is what the young Church, the early Church was like. What challenges from the world can defeat the dreams and aspirations of those who are full of energy through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. None; nothing can stop 1 billion Catholics who come alive by the Holy Spirit. We just need to listen to the Holy Spirit, get our acts together and work together as a body; a body formed by different parts each using its specific charism to build the Kingdom in harmony under the guidance of the one same Holy Spirit'. A body like that is attractive; it draws new hearts into its community.

So listen to what the Lord Jesus tells you today: Come alive!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I want to give you even more life than ever before!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Start living your real life; your real life which is hidden in me; your life in the Holy Spirit!! So breath in the Spirit of God; the Spirit of life!!! Amen!