

PENTECOST-CYCLE A-MAY11, 2008

Today the Church celebrates one of the most important events of Her history: the coming of the Holy Spirit. With that moment the world was forever changed; forever moved into the last of the ages. For the Church, this age is one in which we rejoice, for the “Kingdom is at hand!” Today, in our country, we also observe Mothers’ Day. It would be wrong to ignore Mothers’ Day for the sake of Pentecost, but perhaps it can provide a bit of insight into today’s Solemnity also.

First, let us go back to the beginning; the Book of Genesis. Here’s why. Genesis tells us that God brought Adam to life by breathing into him. God’s breath was called *ruah*, which is translated as “wind.” Acts of the Apostles describes for us the experience of Pentecost....”suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving *wind*.” This “wind” was God’s breath breathing *new life* into the world and man!

God breathed into the world and man once more on Pentecost, and with this new life came new gifts for the building up of His Kingdom. Calling to mind Mothers’ Day, we can be mindful how a mother sees in her children certain gifts and abilities. And, how Moms encourage their children to see and use these gifts...hopefully for the good of others. With this knowledge of Moms, perhaps we should remind ourselves of the gifts we have all received from the Holy Spirit; the traditional seven gifts.

The gift of *wisdom* makes us relish and love only the things of heaven. It is the gift of choosing God and the ways of God above all things. The gift of *understanding* helps us to grasp the truth of our faith. It helps us with insight into Scripture and the doctrines of the Church; which are themselves gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of *counsel* enables us to see and choose correctly those things that help to give glory to God and help us toward our own salvation. It helps us separate good from evil. *Fortitude* is a gift of courage to help us overcome the obstacles and difficulties that arise from the practice of our faith. For example, are we afraid of being labeled “strange” or “radical” if we speak about Jesus and what His presence in our life means? If we speak about our love of the Pope, the Blessed Mother, the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass?

Knowledge helps us know the right path to follow and the dangers to avoid in our journey to heaven. It enables us to possess the vision of the fullness of the Kingdom, present in the Magisterium of the Mystical Body, the Church and helps us stay on course. The gift of *piety* is a confidence in God that leads us to live a Christ-like life. And, finally, the gift of *fear of the Lord* is the gift of respect for God. “Fear” means we’re so much afraid of what God might do to us; rather, it is a deep awe that prevents us from offending Him; of disappointing Him.

All of these gifts are to make our souls more alive to the whispered voice of God. Let us not quiet this voice; for it is the voice of a Divine Guest within our souls, sent by Jesus to teach us the way, the truth and the life!

AMEN.