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PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Today Holy Mother the Church is celebrating the birthday of the Church. It was today that the timid, frightened disciples went forth and proclaimed the Lord Jesus with boldness and power, after they had received the promised spirit from on high.

In St. John's gospel (John 20: 19~23) of the first Pentecost, the primary gift Jesus' spirit bestowed on the disciples is "peace". We all complain that in our busy life, what we all want is "peace and quiet time", because compulsive, frantic activity is the enemy of peace.

Sometimes we think that peace and quiet means sitting quietly in a dark room. But Christ's gift of peace is more robust than that. Peace is like all the best things in life, that is an attitude of mind and a habit born of consistently making good choices. Some people can do a large amount of work and be quite serene about it. Peace for them is an affair of the mind and a way of life.

The second gift that Jesus bequeaths on the disciples is the gift of forgiveness. If we want to cultivate peace and quiet in our lives, we have to confront the things we are trying to avoid or deny. Often these things hinge on painful memories or events, where we were distractive towards others or they were so towards us. And unless we forgive ourselves or forgive them, our busy-ness will ensure that, we have enough clamor or activity to stay away from ugly memories. Unfortunately, it usually follows that when we are so busy not dealing with the sins of our past, peace and quiet stay well away from us as well.

Let us pray that while the Holy Spirit might allow us to retain any sins, we choose Jesus' first option this Pentecost and forgive as generously as we can those who have tried to crucify us. We might have to forgive ourselves as well. And then, like Jesus, with old wounds exposed, we can rejoice that the Holy Spirit has breathed into us the greatest gift of all: "the peace and quiet, we most crave and need."


COVID UP-DATE

The long 'social, physical distancing' imposed by Covid19 cases in Ontario has *not* declined to levels identified as benchmarks by the Chief Medical Officer of the province. While we shouldn't run before we can walk, we do need to be ready for the new reality of gathering together as a community once again. The Archdiocese is working with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario to finalize a re-opening resource that will serve as a template for a consistent approach for returning to Mass in all the dioceses across the province. They are also meeting this week with key provincial contacts regarding re-opening. This may delay the loosening of restrictions and the ability to move to the next phase of the province's re-opening plans. We must wait and see.

I know that I can count on your prayerful support and cooperation as we move toward a re-opening of our Church life that is gradual, safe and that aims to protect the most vulnerable among us. Above all my dear parishioners, let us continue to trust in the Lord Jesus who does not leave us orphaned, and whose presence we will experience again in the sacramental and community life of the Church. And I thank whole heartedly all those who continue to make a generous donation towards the church during COVID 19. . please keep it going.

Also. . . Please continue to keep our dear Bishop Vincent Nguyen in your family prayers as he is home convalescing from surgery.

Yours in the Risen Christ,



Rev. Oswin Fernandes
Pastor