

Last Sunday we saw that Jesus commissioned His disciples to proclaim the gospel to the whole world and promised them that he would be with them . Jesus said “ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever .” Jesus fulfills his promise to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. And today, we are celebrating the feast of that promise of Jesus , the Pentecost Sunday , the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles , the moment when Jesus became present to them in a new way. Pentecost is the feast of foundation of the Church. The Holy Spirit descended upon Blessed Virgin Mary for the incarnation of the Son of God. On the Pentecost day, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles for the mystical body of Christ, the Church. The first descent of the Holy Spirit took place in silence and secret; The second descending of the Holy Spirit happened instead in a sensational way, as we read in the first reading " And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. " In both the manifestations of the Holy Spirit there was Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church. When the disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit , they experienced a radical change in their lives. The Spirit of the Lord was with them in their trials and persecution. The fearful disciples became fearless witnesses of Jesus. They became capable of speaking many languages. They started doing things that they had never done before. The Holy Spirit guided them what to do, helped them what to speak and encouraged them to come together for prayer and celebration of Eucharist and share their belongings in common.

We too have received the Holy Spirit at our Baptism . The Holy Spirit fills us with his gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of God on the day of our confirmation. There is a mysterious moment in all of our lives, a moment when belief comes alive, a moment when ideas and concepts suddenly move our minds and our hearts in a new and a life giving way. That moment is the gift of the Holy Spirit. That moment is the fruit of the Holy Spirit which dwells in us and seeks to bring us closer to God and to one another. The Holy Spirit gives us hope, strength and peace. It brings to mind the words of God that allow us to bring real comfort to people in desperation , to communicate forgiveness and love to someone in need, to bring peace to others and helps us for a true transformation and for a new way of living. The Holy Spirit is present among us when we pray together, when we engage ourselves in doing good for others and when we proclaim the gospel through words and deeds in our everyday lives. We can't see the wind but only we can sense it . So also we can't see the Holy Spirit with our finite and human eyes but we can experience His presence in our lives when we discern His voice. We can realize His presence when we keep His commandments and allow Him to live with us.

As St. Paul says “ I can do anything with the help of the Lord who strengthens me“, we should be able to say even when we meet a moment that reduces our faith and hope. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and treasure the fruits of the Spirit always in us. May the power of the Spirit of the Lord help us, guide us and protect us from every evil and unite us with God and with one another. Amen.