

## Homily – Pentecost Sunday

May 20, 2018

The morning of Pentecost arrived with a mighty wind. Things were coming loose, breaking open. Something new was happening. The wind that morning was very similar to the mysterious wind of creation that swept over the dark waters of chaos on the first morning of all mornings. The wind is always somewhat mysterious. We can see its powerful effects, but we cannot see the wind itself. We can feel it as it blows through our hair, and, at times, we may hear its murmur or roar. It is no wonder that the wind reminds believers of the Spirit of God whose presence in our lives we experience in deep and mysterious ways.

The Spirit of God is also like a gentle breath of air. In the second chapter of Genesis, after God had shaped the man out of the dust, God breathed into the man's nostrils the breath of life and created a human being. Similarly, in today's gospel, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and they are transformed from fearful individuals into a new creation full of joy. In breathing the Holy Spirit upon the Eleven, Jesus, in effect, re-creates them. Then he places his work in their hands. He sends them into the whole

world as the Father had sent him, to show God's healing love and compassion in their words and deeds. Through them, God's mysterious presence will be felt throughout the world.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles at Pentecost, in the form of tongues of fire, they were again re-created. In particular, the Spirit creates in Peter a new man who now has the gift of bold, confident speech. Peter begins to proclaim the good news -- the same Peter who a few weeks before could not speak of Jesus, not even to a servant girl at midnight.

On Pentecost, Peter becomes a new creation. That same gift of bold, confident speech is given to each of us. The risen Lord sends us forth into the world to proclaim God's healing love, mercy, and compassion -- to witness by our word and deed to God's mysterious presence in the world. We do not walk alone. We walk together, and with God. Meanwhile, the Spirit of God blows where it will.

Let us learn from Our Lady of Guadalupe how to listen attentively to God's word and to respond appropriately -- in love. Today, let us praise God and continue to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit! *Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!*