

**Homily – Pentecost Sunday
Confirmations at St. James the Apostle, San Antonio – June 5, 2022**

The Apostles and other pious people – gathered around Mary – await in harmony and in prayer for the gift from the Father that Jesus had promised them. What happened at Pentecost brings the historical work of Jesus for our salvation to its culmination. It begins its actualization through the Church until the Lord returns. The community of disciples is enriched with the ability to announce God’s wonders. They are transformed into missionaries, so that everyone can listen to them in their own language.

After the Passion and death of the Lord, the Eleven had retreated into their fear behind closed doors. They had locked the door from the inside. Although the Lord appeared to them resurrected and continued to prepare them for forty days, they still were not able to go out. It is the confinement of those who have experienced great suffering, which has hurt their hearts. Those outside cannot open and those inside do not consider themselves able to face the outside.

Something similar has happened to us as a society. In a very short time in our history, the world has experienced radical changes in the way we live and relate to one another. Even references of what is right and what is wrong have vanished. We seek security by closing ourselves off in smaller and smaller circles of people with whom we share opinions and feelings. We encapsulate ourselves in self-centeredness that isolates us from others and from reality. Our defensive attitude makes us give up dialogue to resort to shouting. We feel alone.

The experience of the Resurrection through the encounter with the Risen Lord leads us to true life. He sends us to bring that life to the world to transform history. He asks us to be peacemakers and builders of unity.

We recognize that we do not have what it takes to carry out the mission. But we gather as a Synodal Church – around Mary – awaiting with perseverance in harmony and in prayer.

The source of apostolic joy is the peace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, whom the Risen One sends us. He is the wind that fills our spiritual breath and gives us new life. From the moment He entered the Upper Room, He has made Jesus invisibly present in the midst of God’s Holy People as our head. He manifests himself through a great diversity of gifts, services and functions for the common good.

Pope Francis has said: (I quote) “Only someone who makes us feel loved for who we are can give peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, the love of God, does precisely that. He comes down within us; as the Spirit, he acts in our spirit. He comes down ‘within the heart’, as ‘the soul’s most welcome guest.’ He is the very love of God, who does not abandon us; for being present to those who are alone is itself a source of comfort.” (end of quote).

In the last few days I have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit, who brings greater comfort where trials are greater. Faith restores the lost meaning to our lives and our communities, opening the way to the love of God. The God who created you out of love, wants to carry out great works of love through you. Like the disciples, you will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit when I anoint you with the Sacred Chrism. He will empower you to participate in the mission of the Church. Our action is necessary to communicate the message of salvation to everyone. We must concern ourselves with transforming history through the Word and the Spirit of Jesus.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, open our hearts to the comfort of the Holy Spirit.