FR. GARY'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy birthday! I offer that greeting because today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, often referred to as the birthday of the Church. In truth, Jesus established the Church much earlier, when he chose His disciples, appointed Peter to lead the Church, and gave them a commission to go and makes disciples, to baptize and to teach all that He commanded.

But Pentecost is often referred to as the “birthday” because that is when the apostles, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit came alive, so to speak, and were emboldened to live out what they had come to believe. They began to witness to the truths Jesus had revealed to them.

As Catholics, Pentecost reminds us how the Holy Spirit has been given to us at baptism and how the gifts of the Spirit were strengthened when we were Confirmed, so that we too might be witnesses in the world to what Jesus has revealed and done.

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate that Jesus promised, the Helper that would lead us to all truth (Jn 16:13). We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the bible and that the same Spirit guides the Church still today.

The Sequence for Pentecost, poetic verses chanted or recited before the Gospel, speaks of the Holy Spirit as follows:

> *O most blessed Light divine,*
> *Shine within these hearts of yours,*
> *And our inmost being fill!*
>
> *Where you are not, we have naught,*
> *Nothing good in deed or thought,*
> *Nothing free from taint of ill.*
>
> *Heal our wounds, our strength renew;*
> *On our dryness pour your dew;*
> *Wash the stains of guilt away:*
>
> *Bend the stubborn heart and will;*
> *Melt the frozen, warm the chill;*
> *Guide the steps that go astray.*

The Lord Jesus continues to work in and through His Church by the actions of the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit, come!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,

Fr. Gary