



## Pentecost

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- We have learned to prolong life with all kinds of techniques, but we have not succeeded in giving it a satisfactory content and meaning. We have succeeded in raising the level of well-being, but more and more people experience a diffuse feeling of emptiness and discomfort. Our relationships and contacts have multiplied through all kinds of media, and yet the experience of isolation and loneliness is growing for many people.
- In the age of globalisation the experience of individualism has grown disproportionately and alarmingly. Some speak of mass individualism that consists of "looking like everyone else in order to be unique and oneself".
- There is also the individualism caused by the withdrawal into one's own problems, which leads to a general apathy towards what is going on around us.
- On the other hand, many men and women live in an outward-looking, noisy, hurried and hectic way. Today's people find it difficult to go deep inside themselves. He is afraid to meet himself, what is inside him or his own emptiness.
- We witness that the profound changes that have taken place in recent years have seriously shaken faith. Many people do not feel anything inside and God has become something very distant and unreal, someone they no longer know how to meet.
- Humanity today has "a head too big for its soul". H. Bergson.
- The Spirit who had descended upon Jesus in baptism and filled him with his joy, revealing the mystery of God to the simple, has manifested his power by raising him from the dead, and granting him a share in the life and glory of God. As the Lord's Passover is the beginning of a new humanity, the Risen One gives his Spirit to his own to renew them interiorly, to incorporate them into his new humanity, to establish with them the new People of God and to send them as leaven into the world for its total renewal.
- Jesus, the Lord of Easter, communicates his Spirit to us, the very life of God, the power that gives life to the world, which is offered to us as a gift and which works silently in the depths of human hearts.
- The Holy Spirit reminds us interiorly that we all come from the bosom of the same Father and that we are called to joyful and happy communion with each other and with Him. Communion that makes the earth He has given us a common home for the whole human family.

- The Spirit who rests on Jesus is also sent to us as a gift, which penetrates us and renews us profoundly, opening us to a new and deeper communication with God, with ourselves and with others. It is the Spirit of encounter and communion in spite of diversity.

- It is this Spirit that brings us out of our confinement and invades us with a secret joy that springs from self-confidence, giving us back the capacity to give and receive, to love and be loved, to be attentive to all that is good and simple, especially to those who suffer. The anointing of the Spirit makes us like Him; it makes us share in His mission to "preach the Gospel to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord".

- This Spirit is not born of our own strength, nor can we conquer it, it is not bought, acquired, invented or manufactured. It is given to us freely by the Risen Lord. All we can do is to prepare our inner self to welcome it with simple faith and generosity of heart.

- Let us pray that as a Church of missionary disciples we allow ourselves to be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the midst of a dehumanised world, to commit ourselves to witness to the dead and risen Jesus, being in the world instruments of social peace and of unity in love and solidarity, so that men and women may believe in the risen Lord, who is able to bring our life out of death and give us true life.

"When daily life is bitter, disappointing and annihilating,  
disappointing and annihilating, is lived with perseverance to the end  
to the end, with a strength whose origin we cannot grasp or master...  
we can neither grasp nor master...

When one runs the risk of praying in the midst of silent darkness  
in the midst of the silent darkness, knowing  
that we are always heard  
although we do not perceive an answer  
that can be reasoned or disputed...

When one accepts and freely carries a responsibility  
responsibility without clear prospects of success and usefulness...  
of success and usefulness...

When one experiences despair  
and mysteriously one feels comforted without easy consolation...

When one gives oneself a total hope that prevails  
over all other particular hopes  
and embraces with its softness and silent promise  
all growths and all falls....

Then the Spirit of God is at work.

There is God. There is Pentecost.