

From the Pastor's Printer

The Energy Of God, The Holy Spirit

Wind, fire, and words which defied the limitation of language, all served on the first day of the week, the feast of Pentecost, to shake up the world with the good news – the Gospel – of the mighty acts of God. Would that we should see and hear such wonders! Maybe it would enlighten us to the great gifts of love, salvation, and eternal life that God has bestowed upon us. Maybe it would wake up people who live with low expectations of the world (as a place where cynicism, hatred, fear, and violence have already won the fight) of the future (nothing good will develop, we are on the slide to the sinkhole of destruction), and of themselves (I am who I am, I cannot change, the world has dealt me blows; I cannot heal). Yet, if these wonders occurred in every generation, the human race would grow deaf to them because they would be expected with a normal reoccurrence. They would be one more marvel of the world, a curiosity, something amazing, but not something that shakes us to the core of our being.

God has entrusted to us the mission of shaking people to the core of their being and coming to believe in Him as the God of our salvation. Granted, this does not have the razzle-dazzle of that first Pentecost, but when you think about it, it has worked for almost 2,000 years. God tended to his infant Church like an attentive mother to her baby, with the mother's milk of miracles

and the soothing words spoken through believers in tongues. But even from the first day of Pentecost, God did not do anything to separate us from bringing the Gospel to the world. In fact, the very act of filling the Church with the Spirit involved the proclamation of the Gospel and the call to baptism. Since that day, people have been swayed by the witness and the proclamation of some extraordinary, but mostly ordinary Christians, who strive to live the Gospel and give reason for their hope in Christ as Lord and Savior. One would think that the last thing God would do is to entrust to us in our human weakness and imperfection such an essential venture, but one has to remember that He who entrusts it to us gives us the strength and ability to act through the Holy Spirit he has bestowed upon us. We can do this deed because it is not we who live, but Christ who lives in us. (Gal 2: 20)

On this Pentecost Sunday, give thanks for the gift of the "energy" of God, the Holy Spirit, within you, the gift of the people through whom the Spirit works to bring faith to you, and the gift of the call you have received to bring the faith to others. Take some time today to reflect on the Pentecostal blessings you have received, and how you are doing at fulfilling your Pentecostal mission.

May you have a Spirit-filled week and life ahead!

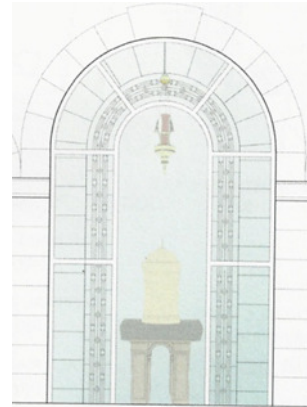
– Fr. Jeff

Some Treasures For Our New Church Still Needed

Your generosity, in part or in full, can bring these important items to our new Church.



Tabernacle



Window framing the Tabernacle