

Pentecost 2020 Homily Outline

The Holy Spirit brings order, direction, and peace out of chaos

1. The Holy Spirit Brings Order out of Chaos

Three important references to events in Salvation History:

A. In Genesis Chapter 1 we read:

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID, AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP; AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS MOVING OVER THE FACE OF THE WATERS.

That's a first, beautiful image of the Holy Spirit organizing, directing, guiding out of chaos into goodness, and the peaceful paradise God intended.

B. In the Gospel we heard today from John, the scene is the Upper Room on Easter Sunday

“PEACE BE WITH YOU.” ...HE BREATHED ON THEM AND SAID TO THEM “RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I ALSO SEND YOU
WHOSE SINS YOU FORGIVE ARE FORGIVEN THEM, AND WHOSE SINS YOU RETAIN ARE
RETAINED.

C. First Reading from Acts of the Apostles

AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME FROM THE SKY A NOISE LIKE A STRONG DRIVING WIND,
AND IT FILLED THE ENTIRE HOUSE IN WHICH THEY WERE. THEN THERE APPEARED TO
THEM TONGUES AS OF FIRE...

2. What do I have to do to receive this gift of peace and order in the midst of chaos?

I came across this good example from Fr. Jacques Phillippe's book Called to Life:

I have often observed that people in difficult situations who come to terms with their inability to understand everything and begin to ask what God wants of them here and now receive enlightenment little by little.

Perhaps an act of confidence is made, or forgiveness is accepted, or there is a renewed effort to pray.

Relief and release are the result, and a pathway to the future opens up.

...

If people know what they must do today and commit themselves to doing it and leave tomorrow to God's providence, all is well. What more can anyone do? Take the step that needs taking today. Take another step tomorrow. Every day will have its own steps to take.

Fr. Phillippe's advice (this is the work of the Holy Spirit, a summary of his gifts and of the fruits of the Holy Spirit):

- a. Know what I must do today
- b. Commit myself to doing it
- c. Leave tomorrow to God's providence

Or – another way of saying it:

- d. Take the step that needs taking today. Take another step tomorrow. Every day will have its own steps to take.

3. What does that mean exactly???

What is required first of all is cooperation with the Holy Spirit. As we notice him nudging, pushing, hinting, directing, guiding – we have to act on those inspirations – it's that simple.

- When he says,
 - “Call your sister” –
 - “Stop and say hello to that person”
 - “Make your bed”
 - “Don't buy that”
 - “Turn off the news.”

Just do what he says.