

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, June 8, 2025
Pentecost Sunday
Cycle C

There are times in life when everything feels like it is stuck on repeat. You wake up. You go through the motions. You smile when expected. But deep down, you are searching – searching for meaning, for clarity, for something more. You look at your life and wonder: Is this all there is? You feel spiritually dry. Directionless. Worn out. Even your prayers feel like echoes fading in the distance. If that is where you are right now, then hear this: Jesus speaks directly to you today: “Peace be with you... Receive the Holy Spirit.”

These are not just words from the Bible; they are words from the Risen Lord for your weary heart. Words he spoke to his disciples who were locked in a room, full of fear, confusion, and guilt. And words he speaks now to YOU – to all of us who might be feeling trapped, burdened, or unsure. Jesus does not shame the disciples for abandoning Him. He does not scold them for hiding. He does not ask, “Where were you?” Instead, he enters the room with wounded hands and says, “Peace be with you.” Then he breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” That breath, that moment, is Pentecost. And it is not just a historical event. It is a living encounter.

The Holy Spirit is not some vague force or abstract idea. He is the very breath of God – the whisper that tells you, “You are not lost. You are not

forgotten. Your life still matters in God's plan." The Spirit is the One who will guide you when the next step feels unclear... who will rekindle your sense of purpose when all you feel is dryness... who will whisper to your heart that you are loved.

If you are discouraged – because your efforts have failed...because people you trusted turned away... because the state of our nation leaves you tired, angry, or hopeless – then hear this again: "Peace be with you... Receive the Holy Spirit."

Pentecost did not happen on a mountaintop of glory. It came after Good Friday – after betrayal, suffering, silence, and fear. That tells us something powerful: the Spirit does not wait for perfect conditions. He shows up right in the middle of our mess. He comes to broken systems, divided communities, and exhausted souls. Quietly. Powerfully. Faithfully. Even when it is hard to see, the Spirit is still at work. Do not lose hope. God is not finished. Goodness will triumph. The Cross proves it. The Resurrection confirms it. Pentecost fulfills it.

And if you are haunted by the past – by mistakes, guilt, regrets... Or if you are anxious about the future – what might happen, what might go wrong... Then today, Jesus meets you in the here and now, and offers freedom. "Peace be with you... Receive the Holy Spirit." The Spirit teaches us to let go with grace: To leave your past to God's mercy... Your present to his love... And your future to his providence.

And maybe right now your family is hurting – carrying the weight of illness, conflict, or even death. And you are doing your best to hold everyone together, but you feel like you are falling apart. Jesus enters that room too –not with clichés or platitudes, but with presence. “Peace be with you... Receive the Holy Spirit.” God loves your family more than you do.

The Spirit is there to comfort when you are too tired to speak... to strengthen you when you feel like giving up...to be the peace that does not make sense but somehow holds everything together.

So, my dear Friends, Pentecost is not just a feast we remember. It is a fire we receive. It is breath we need. *“Peace be with you... Receive the Holy Spirit.”*