

Pentecost May 20, 2018

According to the National Weather Service, last year was one of the most devastating years in history for hurricanes. In our own part of the world, we have just experienced the power of the wind. Who knows what this year's hurricane season will bring and the destruction that comes with it but one thing for sure we have learned to have great respect for the power of the wind which is unseen, but the effects are so visible. On the other hand, scientists tell us that if trees do not have the wind blowing on them while they are growing, they will never attain the strength to mature and survive. Also, this is mother nature's way of pruning the forest and clearing for new growth. Forest fires are destructive but they also clear the area for new growth and so it is with certain pines and blueberries.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were all gathered in one place and they heard the sound of a strong driving wind and tongues of fire rained down upon them. They received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which our candidates will receive anew which are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge. Wonder and awe, reverence. From that time on the Holy Spirit and his gifts are still being poured out on his people, the Church.

Another powerful image is the creation of beautiful diamonds such as the Hope Diamond at the National History Museum in Washington, D. C. since it is the largest diamond in the world. This diamond was transformed by fire from a huge piece of black coal to this exquisite jewel with the process of carving and removing the rough edges it has some many facets that capture rays of light. And so it is with each one of us from sin and death in Christ we come out of the waters of baptism to newness of life and we are transformed into temples of the Holy Spirit. Receiving gifts for our journey to holiness and for the building up of something beautiful for God.

Through the Holy Spirit and his diversity of gifts, God's work is done for the honor and glory of God and for building up the kingdom, the Body of Christ. On the first Pentecost, 5000 Jews and Gentiles were converted to Christianity. Today the preaching of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit still attracts

people from every land and nation making them believers in Jesus for whom the universe was created by the breath of the Holy Spirit at the very beginning to time.

The question for us who temples of the Holy Spirit and recipients of his gifts and talents are, are we using these to the full extent in order to build up the Church by bringing others to Christ. Do we still have fear or are unsure of our gifts?

Today, let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out his gifts in greater abundance and let us be open to his work in our lives.

The Lord is risen, He is truly risen! Risen Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Alleluia, Alleluia!