

newbee

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).



MONTHLY FOCUS
EMPOWERING FAMILY LIFE

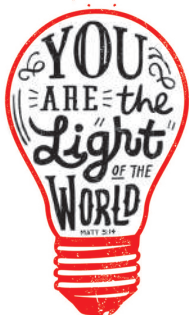
The Holy Spirit THE SOUL OF THE CHURCH

From a group of frightened people in hiding, the Holy Spirit transformed them into bold children of God. Today is Pentecost. We celebrate the birthday of our Church.

It is on this day that the apostles received their baptism by the Holy Spirit. They were filled with the Spirit and began to speak in various languages that could be understood by everyone there. It is significant that these people were from every nation under heaven. They were filled with awe to hear about the marvels of God in their own languages. Indeed, no one is left out of God's salvation.

"The family is called to welcome, radiate and show the world the love and presence of Christ"

Pope Benedict XVI



The next reading is an exhortation by Paul to live the life of the Spirit. If we let the Holy Spirit direct our lives, we will not yield to self-indulgence. Self-indulgence brings about our destruction and we will not inherit the Kingdom of God. The Spirit brings love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. Do we have at least one of these? When we let the Spirit of God lead us and dwell in us, we belong to Jesus. We become the loving children of God, co-heirs to His Kingdom.

This is the Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth, that Jesus promised His disciples, the one who will teach them everything they needed to know and to remind them of everything that He had taught them. The Spirit we receive comes from the Father just as Jesus is from the Father. **We are, therefore, enfolded into the mystery of the Holy Trinity, sharing a familial relationship with them.**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, no longer afraid, the disciples spread the Good News to all nations which led to the expansion of the early Church. As we commemorate the International Day of Families, we trust that the Spirit will also empower us in our family life and be united as the Spirit is united with the Father and the Son. And with Pope Francis, we pray to the Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage to bring God's redemptive plan to fruition: *Breathe into our hearts so that we may experience the tenderness of the Father, breathe upon the Church so that she may spread the Gospel with joy, breathe upon the world the fresh restoration of hope.* ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

- Acts 2: 1-11
- Psalms 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34
- Galatians 5: 16-25
- John 15: 26-27, 16, 12-15