

May 27, 2012

Pentecost Sunday, Memorial Day

Surely Memorial Day ought to be more than just an opportunity for a big sales event.

And so pause a moment and remember so many who sleep so far away from home, too many cut down in the prime of their lives. God grant them rest and may we be delivered from rash wars in our day.

Pentecost

Dinah Simons in *Living With Christ* describes Pentecost as “the Church’s birthday party with gifts given to the church for the common good.”

We only have to recall the Ascension when the disciples “were in doubt” and wondered whether Jesus was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel!”

They didn’t get it at all. So they needed help in understanding; that help of the Spirit came at Pentecost.

We are not so much different than them, are we? We all have our doubts, our worries, our anxieties. When the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples, they were comforted, affirmed, and encouraged. But these gifts came not just for their comfort, but so that the disciples could now act boldly.

That gift given to the apostles is meant for all of us. They did go out into the whole world and proclaimed the Good News. In the meantime, we receive the good news in earthen vessels. Each of us needs the same Spirit. We are poor in many ways; in many ways we all need comfort. The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to gift not just the apostles, but all who would hear their words, our ancestors and ourselves. The Sequence proclaims it well:

Come Holy Spirit come.

Come Father of the poor
And from your celestial home.
Shed a ray of light divine.
Come Father of the Poor!
Come source of all our store!
Come within our bosoms shine.
You of comforters the best.
You the soul’s most welcome guest.
Sweet refreshment here below.
In our labor, rest most sweet.
Grateful coolness in the heat.
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed light divine,

Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill.
Where you are naught, we have naught.
Nothing good in deed or thought.
Nothing free from taint of ill,
Heal our wounds; our strength renew.
On our dryness, pour your dew.
Wash the stains of guilt away.
Bend the stubborn heart and will.
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you evermore.
In your sevenfold gift descend.
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation Lord.
Give them joys that never end.
Amen

Breakfast Question: We always pray the Our Father. Do we pray enough to the Holy Spirit?

Personal Reflection: Which of the above gifts mentioned in the Sequence Prayer am I most in need of at this time?