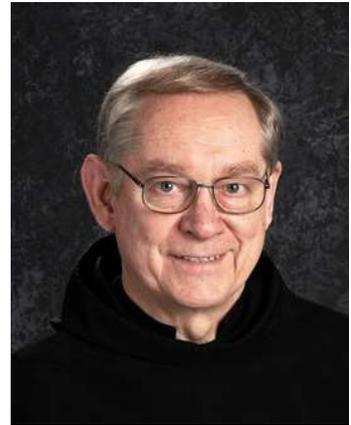


Sunday, June 9, 2019

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

This weekend, the Church brings the Easter Season to a close with the observance of one of the most important feast days of the year, Pentecost, which celebrates the beginning of the Church.

The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek word *pentecoste*, which means 50th. Pentecost always occurs fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection from the dead and ten days after His Ascension into Heaven.



(We are familiar with various novenas—nine days of prayer. The first novena was that period between the Ascension and Pentecost, when, as Acts 1.14 relates, the apostles and our Blessed Mother prayed together “constantly” for nine days.)

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in the Upper Room. Acts 2.2-4 tells us that “a strong driving wind” filled the place where they were, and tongues of fire came to rest on them. And, as the Holy Spirit came to them in this way, they were able to speak in different languages, so that people who spoke those other languages would understand them.

It was right after Pentecost when Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to both Jews and Gentiles. Referring to the Old Testament, he showed how Joel prophesied various events, including the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2.14-21).

After he pointed out to them that Jesus, whom they crucified, is the Lord and Messiah, “they were cut to the heart” and asked what they should do. In reply, Peter exhorted them to repent of their sins and be baptized. About three-thousand people accepted his message and were baptized (Acts 2.36-41). For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church.

Interested in learning more of what the Acts of the Apostles tells us? Come join us Tuesday afternoon, for our bible-study, when we will investigate this fascinating Book in an easy-to-understand way.

Peace and Blessings,

Father Conrad