

JUNE 4, 2017



SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

PSALM 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-7, 12-13

JOHN 20:19-23

REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost, in which God's Spirit descended upon the early disciples, giving them strength to go forth and work for what they were commissioned to do by Jesus. We read in Acts that the Apostles were gathered in one place on the day of Pentecost, a Jewish observance seven weeks after Passover. They were fifty days removed from their leader's execution, and they were waiting for whatever Jesus said was going to happen to them. He was gone, no longer physically present with them after he ascended into heaven. They had been told that they would be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49), but they were surely afraid (John 20:19), not knowing what exactly was going to happen. Through their experience at Pentecost, however, they woke up to God and realized that even though Jesus was no longer present with them as he once was, his Spirit was there with them, a gift given, truly in their midst. The Holy Spirit gave these early disciples the strength that they needed to go forth to spread the Gospel message and to respond to the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20). By virtue of our Baptism, we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Acts of the Apostles 2:38), further strengthened by the sealing of the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.



"ON THE THIRD DAY"
MATT MAHER

ACTION

Catholic charismatic renewal is a spiritual movement within the Church that places a strong emphasis on having a strong personal relationship with Jesus and expressing various gifts, or charismata, of the Holy Spirit. Check out the website of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee (www.nsc-chariscenter.org/) to learn more about the movement. Contact your local diocese to inquire if there are any charismatic renewal groups within your local area. If so, go and attend a liturgy or prayer meeting of one of the groups to witness the Holy Spirit present in their gathering.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● When you think of the Holy Spirit in relation to the other two members of the Trinity, what comes to mind? Consider the role that the Holy Spirit plays in your own life.