**Homily for the** **Pentecost***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

        Today, we celebrate the great solemnity of Pentecost. Originally, it was a Jewish feast of the harvest. The Jewish still continues to celebrate receiving the Law of Moses on Pentecost, fifty days after Passover. Pentecost means the ‘fiftieth day.’

        We, Christians, celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday. We know it as the great birth of the Church when the Holy Spirit came down in wind and flame to transform the disciples into great missionaries of the Gospel and make of them a Church.

        Pentecost is not the first appearance of the Holy Spirit. There was the Holy Spirit already before Pentecost. We know the Spirit of God hovered over the waters in Genesis, the Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets, and Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then, what does Pentecost make us all the difference?

        After Pentecost, now, the Holy Spirit is given not just to the kings or prophets or special person, but to the whole Church, to every Christian, and to each one of us. It is our Pentecost. We all have received the Holy Spirit. Remember. Each one of us received the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation to enable us to live a new way of life: a life of love, peace, joy, and righteousness.

        Whatever happens in our life, whatever ways we may travel, the Holy Spirit is present with us as conscience, as repentance, as a way back, as an inner moral compass, as an urge to pray, as the desire to forgive, as a concern for someone who has experienced tragedy, as an encouragement to love and hope, and as the right direction for the future.

        So, Pentecost is not just about a supernatural event on an afternoon in Jerusalem long time ago. It is our own story about journey of faith. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the love and grace of God, and He gives us the strength and courage.

        Jesus says to us, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Then, He adds, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” This is who we are. This is what we do.

        In His Ascension, Jesus left to heaven. But, we know that the story didn’t end there. Jesus wants to share Heaven’s glory with us. We are invited to the Kingdom of heaven, and we are part of His Kingdom.

        But, the problem is that we are very weak. We stumble or get diverted, or we get weary and stop moving forward to heaven. Sometimes, we stop walking for our journey to heaven. This is one reason why the Holy Spirit has been given to us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God is with us, takes care of us, and leads us to heaven. It is God’s eternal promise.

        The Lord Jesus wants to make our faith strong, give us hope that endures, and a love that never grows cold. So, He offers each one of us the gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit.

        We know and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we try to love and forgive others, when we try to unite rather than divide, when we proclaim and live the Gospel, when we open our hearts in prayer, when we make wise decisions, when we are faithful to our vows and promises, when we appreciate the majesty of God’s presence, we are within the Holy Spirit. We know the Spirit of God is with us always in our daily lives.

        The Holy Spirit is our personal link to what counts, our link to what is right, our personal link to God. The Holy Spirit is Easter gift of Jesus to the Church and to each one of us.

        Today, we say with believers throughout time, Veni, Sancte Spiritus, Come, Holy Spirit: come into our hearts, come into our parishes, come into our homes, and renew the faith of the earth.