

"...yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." (Acts 2:11)

At Pentecost the disciples and all those nations gathered for the feast in Jerusalem experienced something that they had never experienced before. They did not understand what it was; they did not know whether it was something from God, or not.

Something is happening with us, too. Something is driving through among us strongly, and we do not understand what it is. We could not have expected such a pandemic, and we feel scared, uncertain, surprised. We do not know if this is from God or not, and if it is good for us in life. But, if we search for the answer in the Gospel, we will find it. God enlightens the darkness of our hearts, and teaches us why things are in order, and how things fit into the divine order.

God lets us be surprised; He lets things happen that we do not understand. We may think that something is good or bad, but we can be sure that God thinks about things differently. We have to look at the world, and at all that happens around us, in the light of God's plans, in the light of our salvation. We get the answer only if we try to understand the good news.

At Pentecost in Jerusalem people understood the proclamation of the Gospel. God made people understand each other, so that they could understand God better. It was the Holy Spirit who made it possible to understand the Gospel. Do not believe that we would be able to do it without the grace of the Holy Spirit, but do not think either, that we are lacking this grace. We have every gift we need to understand the Gospel, and through this we can get closer to understanding those things happening around us, and why God lets them happen.

Now we still know only a little about this situation around us. The pandemic is still dangerous and still has great surprises, but slowly, step by step, we are trying to get back to the normal life. We cannot take it for granted that we will go back to the same way of life as before; moreover, we can be sure that whatever God is preparing for us will be very good. We have to start to appreciate those small things that God is unveiling again. Changing a way of life step by step lets us stop for a moment at every step and be grateful for those little things. Let us be grateful for the Holy Mass that we can attend again, for the family contacts that we can live again in person, for getting together with our loved ones, getting together with the sisters and brothers in the fraternity.

Let us be grateful for being able to return to work, and let us pray for those who cannot do so.

Let us have a stronger solidarity with those whose life has changed into a more difficult one, due to health, financial, or political reasons.

Let us feel the obligation to strengthen our fraternities at every level so that our life may proclaim the Gospel of God, and others can see it, and understand it.

Let us provide encouragement for those who have to wait more time for these good things.

The Holy Spirit gave us seven wonderful and great gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. Each of us may feel a special need for a particular gift. Let us pray for it, and let us pray for the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, who may

fill us with far more gifts than we could ever imagine. Like it or not, other people are seeking God in us, in our actions, in our thoughts, in how we live our lives. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us good instruments of his love, knowing that we never receive His gifts for ourselves but for others, for our neighbors.

I wish all my sisters and brothers that this Pentecost be for us a moment to better understand the Gospel, the good news, and to better understand each other, so that, at the end, we can better understand the divine plan of God and "as ones interiorly cleansed, interiorly illumined, and inflamed with the fire of the Holy Spirit, we may be able to follow the footsteps of Thy Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. St. Francis: Letter to the Order)

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