

## Pentecost Sunday (C)

May 23, 2010

How will people know we are Christian?

When we take a look at our lives – our actions, our words, our thoughts – are we able to tell that we, ourselves, are Christian?

To put it another way, are we spiritual – praying for others, especially those who desperately need to feel God's love in their lives?

Are we service-orientated – reaching out to others by offering them things they need from our own resources?

Are we willing to recognize God's various ways of working in our lives and ready to spread this Good News to our brothers and sisters, especially to those who have not yet heard?

Some people might say that all this and more can be done without saying a single word. Do we agree?

Rather than blatantly speaking about spirituality, service, God's workings, and such, can we communicate these elements of our Christian identity through our actions? I propose yes, we can.

If we look back at our lives and all that we've learned, we tend to remember better certain and specific actions that we participated in rather than words that were spoken to us.

For instance, my parents told me all the time that they loved me. But, what I remember growing up is how they made it to all my games ...how they taught me how to drive a car...how they encouraged me to try my best...how they supported me in every idea I had – both those that were brilliant and sensible and even those that were a little bit crazy and absurd.

This is how I know that they loved me...because they showed me through their actions.

We too are called to show others not only love, but more importantly, the love of Christ through our actions as well.

We are called to act like Christ and in doing so we bring Christ to others and thus, allow others to see Christ through us.

This is the reason as to why we have received the Holy Spirit.

Christ gave his apostles the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and he gives us the Holy Spirit now not for our own selfish use. No.

Rather, Christ gives the Holy Spirit so that those who receive it, namely us, believers and followers of Christ, may be given the strength and guidance to bring one another to know, love, and serve God.

And we do this mainly, but not entirely, through our actions.

In other words, we embrace what St. Paul tells us through the Corinthians in our Second Reading – we embrace the different spiritual gifts, the different forms of service, and the different workings that we have been blessed with by the same Spirit, Lord, and God.

And once we have embraced them, we use them for the benefit of communicating the salvation of souls and the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Thus, to embrace spiritual gifts means we pray for one another, both our friends and our enemies.

To embrace forms of service, we give what we can to the poor and those less fortunate than ourselves.

And to embrace different workings, we recognize and are open to the fact that God works in our lives in a variety of ways – both comforting and soothing as well as challenging and trying.

Embracing these aspects, all of which are some form of the Spirit's presence in our lives, we are able to act in ways that will inevitably bring our brothers and sisters to Christ.

And so, the challenge before us is this: are we ready and willing to accept the Holy Spirit that has been promised to us and given to us first at our baptism...

The same Spirit that blesses us with different spiritual gifts, forms of service, and workings of God...

The same Spirit that grants us newness of life...

And the same Spirit that guides us to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in bringing one another to a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God through our actions...

Are we ready to accept THIS Holy Spirit?