

## HOMILY PENTECOST YRA 2017

There was a man who moved to a new town to take a job. He wanted to find a church in the area, and there was a Catholic church just a few blocks away. He was Christian but not Catholic and had never been to a Catholic church. He decided to give it a try and attend a Sunday service. He thought the priest made a particularly good point in the homily and he called out “Amen.” The woman sitting next to him leaned over and said: “We don’t do that here.” Later in the Mass there was a hymn that he knew and liked so he sang out, louder than the people around him. A number of people who were sitting around him turned and glared at him. After Mass, nobody talked to him or welcomed him. He saw one man that appeared to be at least open to having a conversation. He approached him and said: “I am new here. I am Christian but not Catholic and this is the first time I have been to a Catholic church. I was wondering. What is it that Catholics believe in?” The man replied: Oh, we believe in simply doing our duty and bearing our crosses until Christ returns.” The man replied: “If Christ visited this church, I don’t think he is coming back.” And I do not think that man is either. I wonder what visitors think when they come to St. Edith. I hope they find a community of believers that they would like to be part of. I wonder if they would want to come back.

Today we live in a country where many people either do not believe that God exists, or if he does exist he does not make any difference in our lives. The man in the story may believe that God exists, but he is not making a difference in his life. He seems to be just sitting around waiting to die. He is just waiting for him to come back. He is alive and with us now! We were reminded of a lot of good news about our faith during the Easter Season. We learned that Jesus loves us so much that he died for us. We learned that Jesus rose from the dead and he is living among us. Last week on the feast of the Ascension we received our commission: “make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and we learn that God loves us so much that he is not

just with us; he is living inside of us always. He will never leave us and he is strengthening us and helping us all of the time. But we need to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. With all of the crazy in the world I have great hope. I know that God loves me unconditionally and will never leave me alone. And I know that God is in charge and eventually goodness will prevail.

But it is essential that we be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. God wants very much to communicate with us, but we have to be open to him in prayer. At the first Pentecost, people were amazed because they spoke at least 15 different languages but they understood one another. I think they all understood the language of the heart. The Holy Spirit does not speak to us in words, but he speaks a language of the heart. It is the language of love. When suffering comes into our lives, we need to talk it to the Holy Spirit and ask him what you should do with it. Your answer will come. God will make something good out of it if you let him. If something happens in your life that you did not expect or want accept that maybe this is what was supposed to happen and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit on how to change course. If your plan does not seem to be working very well for you, ask the Holy Spirit what his plan is. He probably has a better plan for your life. Be open to the opportunities that come into your life, especially the unexpected ones. They may be right from the Holy Spirit.

Coming to know Jesus Christ and having a personal relationship with him has brought great joy into my life. I know I am loved. I know I am never alone. I know his Spirit will always help me. Being open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit makes our lives anything but dull. I do not believe that we should just do our duty and carry our crosses until Christ returns. He is living in each one of us today, and there is too much that the Holy Spirit wants to do! What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?