

# **HOMILY PENTECOST**

**June 8, 2025**

Those of you have traveled to Rome are probably familiar with the sculptor Bernini. He sculpted during the baroque period and his sculptures are all over Rome, in many of the fountains, all over. He was very prolific. He did not complete some of his sculptures. He would get things started, and then one of his students would complete his vision. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between the sculptures that he completed himself and the sculptures completed by his students. I think Jesus did something very similar. He came to earth 2,000 years ago in a human body and got things started. It is up to all of us to complete his work according to his vision.

The first reading took place during the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which was 50 days after Passover. This is a time when people came from many different places speaking many different languages. God chose this time for the new Pentecost to be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit did not come just to Jesus' disciples; the Holy Spirit came to everyone who was present that day. While they spoke many languages, they all hear in their own native language. The Holy Spirit united them that day. I think they had a strong spiritual connection. I think Jesus intended for us to be connected with one another. The divisions in our world seem to be becoming more and more polarized, almost to the point where there is no common ground. We are different individuals with different gifts, but we were intended to work together as the different parts of the body work as a unified whole. I think we need to begin to strive to work in that direction. I think the power of the Holy Spirit can bring us together if we let it. As God did not exclude anyone present in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost, I think our Church needs to be a place where everyone is welcome and safe. I think that is Jesus' vision.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is available to everyone. The question is whether or not we are going to accept it. The Holy Spirit works in ways that we just do not understand; however, we have learned about some ways that he does work. The Holy Spirit does not

just override our human nature. We need to seek to cooperate with him to discern God's will for us. The Holy Spirit guides us to fulfill the responsibilities we have taken on in our lives. He is not going to lead us to abandon our responsibilities, but we do not necessarily have to continue to fulfill those responsibilities in the same way. If you have a choice between doing something moral and immoral, there is no discernment issue here. You have to do the right thing. When we look for God's will in our lives, I think we sometimes think too big. Most of the time we do not need to make huge changes. Sometimes we just need to make some smaller adjustments in our lives that bring more meaning and purpose to our lives. Seek to use the things you are good at or your charisms to help other people. That is where you will shine. If you are in the middle of a crisis situation in your life, you should not make any changes that you do not need to make. For example, after the death of a loved one try not to make any big changes in your life for at least a year. The crisis could direct the decision rather than the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is going to stay with you regardless of the decisions you make or the situation you find yourself in. The Holy Spirit is not going to say "You had your opportunity to make the right choice and did not take it so now you are on your own." Sometimes multiple people will tell you to do the same thing. When this happens, I would at least consider it. You may not decide to do it but at least consider it. Sometimes the same opportunity offers itself over and over. You should at least consider it, even if it seems to be coming out of left field. If the same thing keeps coming up in prayer, you should seriously consider it. If it is coming out of left field you know it is not coming from you, it could be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is probably not going to always lead you to things in your comfort zone. He leads us to personal growth, and this is frequently where you find purpose and meaning.

Always remember that we are to be completing the work that Jesus started when he was in a human body 2,000 years ago. I frequently ask myself "What would Jesus do." The more I come to know Jesus the easier it is to answer that question.