

Pentecostals Serve!

May 23, 2010, Pentecost, Acts 2: 1-21; John 14:15-26

Fifty days after Easter the disciples, men and women and children received God's power through the Holy Spirit because they were in unity; because they shared all things in common; because they prayed constantly; because they repented and changed their lives; because they used the gifts of the Holy Spirit in *service*.

The Church is growing fastest in Africa, Korea and South America because as they suffer persecution they pray and serve. No church can be Pentecostal, if it does not pray and serve. I don't mean just going to Mass Sunday after Sunday but spending time on your knees and time studying and exploring the many ways of praying God has given us in our Church, always expecting the Holy Spirit to move us and change our lives. Let me read you a poem:

*I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't take time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier became each task.*

"Why doesn't God help me," God answered: "You didn't ask."

*I wanted to see joy but the day toiled on, gray & bleak, I wondered why
God didn't show me, He said: "But you didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock,
God gently and livingly chided: "My child, you didn't knock."*

*I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time to pray.*

Too many people are trying to go it alone. Too many churches are trying to go it alone. Too many nations are trying to go it alone. We have a need to pray in order for God to give some purpose and order in our lives. We have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of God's grace, too proud to ask for help from our Divine Parent. We need to humble ourselves, confess our personal and national sins, and to pray for forgiveness." It is by repentance that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in unity, prayer and service as we harness the power of the Spirit. Every Pentecost we call on the Spirit of God to come in tongues of fire to commission those who serve one another as we celebrate the real presence of our God in the Word, in the Body and Blood of Christ, in the Family of God gathered in unity, prayer, repentance and service in Jesus' name.

I ask the following Ministers of Liturgical Service to stand:

Those who serve at the Table of the Lord as Eucharistic Ministers;

Those who serve by proclaiming the Word of God as Lectors;

Those who serve the priest and community as Altar Servers;

Those who serve the community with Music in the Choir;

Those who serve by welcoming as Greeters and Ushers;

Those who serve on the Liturgy Team and Altar Society;

I ask the following Ministers on our Parish Teams to stand:

Those who serve on the Parish Pastoral Council Team;

Those who serve on the Youth Team (*Catechists, Wednesday Jr. & Sr. Youth Clubs*);

Those who serve on the Adult Team (RCIA, Bible; Adult Social Club; 60 + Card clubs; Men's & Women's Clubs; Samaritans)

Those who serve on the Latino Advisory Team (outreach to Latino families, Language classes);

Those who serve on the Welcoming Team (get new members, welcome guests, family church);

Those who serve on the Stewardship Team (TTT, CPC, St. V De Paul, Clothes Closet, Soup Kitchen)

Those who serve on the Finance Team (fundraisers, social, fishfrys, dinners, breakfasts, lawn mowers);

Those who serve on the Prayer Team (*prayer chain; praying for sick and parish constantly*)