



At Pentecost, the frightened disciples were transformed into missionaries. As St. John Chrysostom preached, the Holy Spirit did not come merely to comfort the Apostles, but to send them out into the world to proclaim Christ boldly (Homily 4 on Acts). The same Spirit has been given to us through Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. The Catechism begins by reminding us that all the faithful are called to hand on the faith “from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer (CCC, 3).

Pentecost challenges us to ask difficult questions. Is my faith something private and comfortable, or is it missionary? Do I know Christ deeply enough to explain why I believe? When was the last time I invited someone back to Mass — perhaps even my own child or grandchild, for whom I constantly pray for and to whom I

have the sacred duty of handing on the faith? When was the last time I spoke openly about Christ, defended the teachings of the Church, or prayed for the persecuted Church throughout the world? It is easy to focus only on our own parish concerns, buildings, preferences, or fears about decline. Yet the Holy Spirit was poured out not for self-preservation, but for evangelization.

The Church extends beyond our parish boundaries. Around the world, there are people who do not know Christ, Catholics who have fallen away, families struggling without hope, and Christians suffering persecution. Pentecost reminds us that we are responsible for them, too. The Spirit calls each of us to serve through prayer, works of charity, teaching the faith, supporting missions, welcoming the stranger, and courageously witnessing to Christ in daily life.

The same Spirit that descended upon the Apostles is alive in the Church today. The question is whether we are willing to let Him send us, rather than wait and hope someone else will do it for us.