

DESIRING WHAT THE SPIRIT BRINGS...!

As we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of Truth, the promise of the Father, St. Paul reminds us of what the Spirit brings. He says that 'what the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course' (cf. Gal. 5:22-23). The preceding wonderful admirable gifts are opposed to actions that emanate from the spirit of self-indulgence: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things...' (Gal 5:16-21).

Beloved People of God, how easy it is for all of us to discern at what point we are on our spiritual journey! The gifts of the Holy Spirit include Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. How simple it is to acknowledge what the Spirit of Truth brings and to ardently desire these gifts. One of the amazingly joyful things about our God is his generosity. He attends freely and generously to anyone, from anywhere, any race, colour and language who asks, seeks and or knocks. This is part of what the Scripture means when it says, 'there were devout men (people)... from every nation under heaven...each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language...' (cf. Acts 2:1-11).

On this Pentecost Sunday and always, we pray that we be guided by the Holy Spirit and not by self-indulgence. We pray to belong to Christ by the crucifixion of all self-indulgent passions and desire. May 'the Holy Spirit heal our wounds and renew our strength...wash the stains of guilt away... bend the stubborn heart and will...melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray...May we be given comfort when we die and receive joys that never end' (cf. Sequence).

Fr. Ted

All to Jesus – Through Mary our Mother

Pentecost Sunday – 19th May 2024