

## HOMILY ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

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When you purchase a mechanical item that runs on battery power, frequently there is a notice on the box "Batteries Not Included". The Holy Spirit is our Source of power for living. Today is the Feast of Pentecost. Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. The Jewish Pentecost was originally a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, it is the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after with Moses at Mt. Sinai. On Pentecost day the Lord's greeted the disciples followed by two gestures: He says, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you". After this, he breathes on them and says: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them. We can see a reference to the story of creation in the Book of Genesis, after the creation of Man the Lord God blew into his nostrils the breath of life". A new life and awakening is there. In a church a preacher notices, that the husband has fallen asleep and he says to the wife, "Wake your husband up!" The wife answers, I cannot do it, "You're the one who made him fall asleep, **you** wake him up!". The disciples were asleep and Jesus sends His Spirit to wake up all His disciples. Jesus breathes on the Apostles and gives them the breath of God in a new and greater way. There is now something absolutely new: a new love and goodness. To his breath, to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord joins the power of forgiveness. If we compare the two events of Pentecost - the strong wind of the 50th day at Sinai and the gentle breath of Jesus on the evening of Easter. On the one hand, there is

the narration of fire, thunder and wind, preceding the promulgation of the Ten Commandments and the conclusion of the Covenant (cf. Ex 19 ff.). On the day of Pentecost also there is a new covenant made. At Mount Sinai, the Israelite became a new people of God and on new Pentecost there evolves a new church, a new community. On Mount Sinai the law was written on the Tablet and new Pentecost the New law written in the Hearts. The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as fiery tongues and all were anointed and transformed into burning preachers. THE STORY is told about a group of firemen who responded and put out the fire in a church. The parish priest found out that the chief fireman was a Catholic, and asked him: "How come I do not see you in church?" His response: "Father, I come to church only if the church is on fire." the Holy Spirit makes us children of God, makes us temples of God, warriors and defenders of the Faith. It is the Holy Spirit who develops our intimacy with God. As a Giver of gifts, He gives us His gifts, fruits and charisms. The Spirit gives the power of Spontaneity. **The Holy Spirit guides us to obtain God's promises. The Holy Spirit guides us away from sin. The Holy Spirit guides us to see what God has given us.** We need to permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives: 1) by constantly remembering His holy presence 2) by praying for His daily anointing. In every way, we look at the Holy Spirit, He is always our Helper, always helping us to be what God made us to be. Let us repeat Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman's favourite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:" "Come Holy Spirit Make our ears to hear. Make our

eyes to see. Make our mouths to speak. Make our hearts to seek. Make our hands to reach out. And touch the world with your love. AMEN.”