



“Spirit of New Life”

Pentecost is not just a feast; it is not just the "birthday of the Church" - it is a "state of mind"; it is the "soul" of Christianity. It is the unending miracle of God's love poured out in the hearts of believers. **It is the abiding power source of Gospel living.** It is a gift to all of creation. It is the fulfilment of God's promise to "Change the face of the Earth."

Jesus breathed new life into his disciples. First, by his greeting, "Peace be with you" - which were reconciling words to them after they failed him so miserably during the Passion and Crucifixion. Then he bids them peace again and with that, he began a new creation by his breath - the Spirit. They

are commissioned to take this reconciling peace and to proclaim it to the world. By his breath **Jesus has given us a new Spirit.** We are also re-created with the breath of life. Breathing new life into us Jesus sends us out to take his breath into the world. **That is who we are.**

The message of Jesus is intended for all people, in all times and places. The language of Jesus is the language of the spirit, one that transcends nationalities and all other divisive elements. We must learn the language of the Spirit. Change and diversity are integral elements of the vocabulary of the Spirit.

St. Paul tells: *"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or*

Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit." (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13). Jesus has breathed His Spirit into each of us and we each are part of the community of God's people... a community that is ever-changing, ever-diverse and ever-growing.

John XXIII said that "*we are not here to guard a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life.*" The Holy Spirit is the gardener who has planted the seeds; it is up to us to bring the harvest of that garden to fruition.



Click here for [October 2019 for Extraordinary Missionary Month](#), and [here](#) for Sunday Reflections.