



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



The Solemnity of Pentecost, Mass During the Day

Saint Louis Abbey

June 12, 2011

9:00 a.m. Mass

Introduction

“The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world; he holds all things together and knows every word spoken by man, alleluia.” On this Pentecost Day, the Spirit of the Lord is poured out on the Apostles, and through them and their successors he will be poured out on the whole world; he holds all together by the gift of charity, of love, which he pours into our hearts, and he knows every word spoken by man and so gives his Church the power to speak all the languages of humankind in order to proclaim the great things God has done. On this wonderful day, then, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Mass, let confess to the Lord everything in our heart which hinders us from receiving the Holy Spirit in his fullness.

Homily

Dear friends, on this great Feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the completion of the working of the Lord’s Paschal Mystery in us, its completion, that is, to the extent to which it is to be completed in us while we still live in this world. By the Lord’s Suffering and Death, we died to sin; by his Resurrection, our souls rose with him to the new life of grace and justification. By his Ascension, our minds and hearts were raised up to him where he sits at the right hand of the Father. And now, today, we are filled with an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit and of all his gifts, and so for the rest of this age we live in the Lord’s Body the Church, filled with his Spirit and waiting for him to come again, when in his mercy his Judgment will be manifested as our total salvation, he will raise our bodies from the grave, and he will glorify us, body and soul, in the eternal blessedness of the Vision of him face to face. This completion of the Paschal Mystery in us was first worked in Our Blessed Mother, the Apostles, and the disciples with them, about 120 souls, we are told, on the first Pentecost after the Lord’s Resurrection, and so the Church was born. But the Lord intends that this completion of his Paschal Mystery be worked ever more fully in us each year on this great day of Pentecost, when he pours out his Spirit on us in his fullness, and calls us to receive that Spirit, by his grace, more fully than we have ever done before. How, then, shall we open our hearts to receive this fullness of the Spirit?

The Lord himself has told us. He said to his Apostles, speaking of his Ascension, “Unless I go, the Spirit will not come to you.” Why is this? The Church teaches us that this is the answer: The Holy Spirit is the very love of God, in Person. Now, by ascending into heaven, Our Lord has drawn our minds and hearts to follow him, and thus



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to be set in our yearning on the things of heaven, the things of glory, the things of God. But the Holy Spirit just is the love of God, and the love of the manifestation of God in each of these things. By keeping our minds and hearts, then, on the ascended Lord seated at the right hand of the Father, we open them to the love of the Father, of the Son, of the things of God, and that is to say, we open them to the Holy Spirit. So he can be poured into our hearts. There is this, too: among the things of glory, and in the first class of those things, are each one of our brothers and sisters, already in the mind and heart of God what they are called by him to be for all eternity, each a beautiful and unique image of God. So by opening our hearts to God and things of God and of heaven, we open our hearts to each of our brothers and sisters as they are called to be. So the Holy Spirit can be poured into hearts, bringing with him the love of God which he himself pours into our hearts, that love of charity which is always the love of God and of our neighbor in God. It is this love which binds us all together in the Church, it is this love which gives the ordained ministers of the Church the office of administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as we heard in the Gospel for today and which gives all of us the ministry of reconciliation in the Church and in the world, it is this love which gives the ordained ministers the office of preaching and teaching the Word of the Lord in all the languages of the world, which gives all of us the ministry of witnessing to that Word in the Church and in the world.

What a glorious day this is! “The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world; he holds all things together and knows every word spoken by man, alleluia.” “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by that same Spirit we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.”