



Reflection from Ben Babaran

PENTECOST 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

As we celebrate our birthday, let us be thankful for the past year. Through the pandemic, we remained steadfast in our faith and kept in touch with each other. We were blessed to render help to those affected by Covid-19 virus. We thank God that we are healthy and gathering in-person again for Mass. Moreover, we pray for those who are sick and those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Today in the Gospel we read that the disciples of Jesus were hiding. They were hiding in fear behind closed and locked doors. They were shutting out the rest of the world, which was hostile, persecuting and terrifying. They felt better huddled together, in isolation and planning what to do next, and where to go. Does this sound similar to last year?

In the same manner as Jesus surprised the apostles with his presence giving them his peace, Jesus' ever-present spirit broke through our isolation, giving us hope and calling us back to the Gospel.

Pentecost Sunday is our Confirmation! Unfortunately, I don't remember that event in my life as I was confirmed when I was young. As a child, I was passive. My parents took care of me and I simply took it. I didn't have to do anything but accept it. Now as an adult, I am called to go out to proclaim the good news of LOVE. I am called to give love instead of taking it; to care for others instead of being cared for.

Pentecost challenges us to be on fire in our faith and our love. To be shepherds in search of the lost and lonely to comfort them. To show mercy and forgiveness. To bring people together. To help those in need. To give hope to those who despair. To convey Christ's peace to those who are afraid. We are now Christ's witnesses. We are the Church. What we do, the Church does. And what we fail to do, the Church fails to do.

As we congratulate our graduates and those who celebrate a milestone in their lives this year, we pray that the Holy Spirit be with them as they continue to work on their dreams and follow their passion.

*~ Peace,
Ben*