



**A Message from our Pastor,
Fr Regulo Imperial:
May 30, 2020**

Dear Parishioners:

Greetings of Peace! Today brings us to the end of the 50 days of Easter with the celebration of *Pentecost*.

I'll start with a story. The wise old Mother Superior was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed, trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk to drink, but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass back to the kitchen. Remembering a bottle of whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips. Mother drank a little, then a little more, and before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop. "*Mother, Mother,*" the nuns cried, "*give us some wisdom before you die!*" She raised herself up in bed with a pious look on her face, and pointing out the window, she said, "DON'T SELL THAT COW!"

Let's try to compare the Pentecost event, though it's so secular, to a glass of milk mixed with a generous amount of whiskey. Out of seclusion the disciples came out of their hiding place, full of spirit, energy and enthusiasm ready to start a new chapter of life with the Lord.

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked..." (John 20:19) Pentecost is the feast of locked doors...feast of isolation, fear, abandonment, and near despair - that are suddenly blown open! Pentecost is not just something miraculous and stupendous that happened some 2,000 years ago. It's an event that needs to happen in each of our lives...now!

Soon the locked doors of Covid-19 will be blown open. Living behind locked doors is a depressing and lonely experience. We often hear that the defence against the loneliness of quarantine is to busy ourselves with work, hobbies and Netflix. But while these distractions have merit, they make it easy to avoid meaningful solitude. The real meaning of solitude is that it "*helps us accept the reality that possession of things, wealth and power may make life somewhat easier in some instances, but does not equate to human well-being, life satisfaction or happiness,*" said Okozi.

May the post Covid-19 season be the beginning of a new Pentecost for all of us, just like the first Pentecost was the birthday of our Church. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to be our Paraclete, teacher, consoler and guide. May He guide us into a new direction like a compass to a new type of existence.

Is there anything that can give us a sense of direction in spiritual and moral matters, in questions of religious faith? Well, there's bad news and good news about that. The bad news is that in this twenty-first century world we live in, it's easy to get lost in the woods, spiritually and morally and lots of people do get lost. The good news is that we have a compass: our faith in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. That faith is our compass.

Let us renew our faith in Jesus Christ who is on a collision course with some of the ideas people tell us to live by nowadays. Either God decides what is good or evil, or we all decide that for ourselves. Either my own will determines what's right, or I need to follow the teaching and example of my Savior. If truth depends on freedom, then whatever I want is right. If freedom depends on God's revealed truth, then I need to pay attention to Jesus. Either Jesus is right and we should try to enter eternal life by the narrow gate of following Him, or else any path we choose will lead us to our own personal inner truth.

TO OUR ROMAN CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Fr. Regulo Imperial, Pastor