

Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

19 – Jun 1st, 2017

Pentecost

Pentecost is the great feast of the Holy Spirit, but, is it true? Do we really experience this day as a great feast? Does Pentecost move us interiorly as does Christmas or Easter?

If we think of the Holy Spirit, then we lack images, concrete experiences, visible happenings or events. Because the actions of the Divine Spirit are not so obvious, so palpable, as those of Christ or God the Father. The Holy Spirit is – as is said – the third unknown Person of the Divinity, the unknown God for Christians.

In reality, the Divine Spirit is close to us, is present in my life since Baptism, is the guest of my soul. But I have to discover Him, take serious his presence in my interior life, allow myself to be led, enriched and educated by Him.

Now then, who is this Holy Spirit who at Pentecost descended upon Mary and the apostles and who lives in our souls.

We know that God is a God Community – from all eternity – that He is a Trinity of Persons. We know that God is a God Family.

And our human families were created in the image of this Divine Family. Therefore, if nothing is more like God than our human families, then we will also find in them what to characterize the Holy Spirit with.

To better understand the Spirit of God, we must refer to what is most precious and most powerful in a family: family spirit.

A family without spirit is not a true family. But in all those who do possess it, family spirit is more alive than each one of its members.

These members are marked and shaped by it; all end up improved, enriched, characterized by the fact of pertaining to that family.

And, what is that spirit? Essentially, it is a spirit of love. It has been formed by the creative love of the parents towards the children, by all forms of initiatives, kindnesses and impulses.

And also from the love of the children towards the parents, in the form of respect, confidence, admiration and joy. Is this the spirit which rules in our families? And this exchange increases of itself; in a never ending and without end circle.

Thus we can understand that, in its last analysis, this family spirit can convert into a person, into a being, different from the individuals who created it. Here is perhaps the best representation of the Holy Spirit: It is love and exchange of love between the Father and the Son. The Father turns towards the Son, and the Son towards the Father, with such great intensity that from it another Person comes forth: the Holy Spirit.

Sent by the Father and the Son, this same Divine Spirit – at Pentecost – descended on the primitive Church. The apostles were united with Mary in the Cenacle, anxiously awaiting the promised Spirit.

We should also place ourselves spiritually into the historical Pentecost. Because that event should repeat itself today here in our community.

And our prayer should have the same content as that of Mary and the apostles in the Cenacle. Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us, come into our hearts! Because we desire it, because we need everything, because we can do nothing without your power, your gifts, your fruitfulness.

Dear brothers and sisters, may He open our closed minds and our hardened hearts so that He can work freely in us. And that with his fire, He can transform us all.

Translation: Carlos Cantú, Schoenstatt Family Federation, La Feria, Texas USA, 05192017
cantu_carlos@hotmail.com