Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3B-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

In a mother’s womb were two babies. One asked the other: “ Do you believe in life after delivery?” The other replied, “why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. May be we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later.”

“Nonsense” said the first. “There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?”

The second said, “ I don’t know, but there will be more light than here. May be we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouth. May be we will have other senses that we can’t understand now.”

The first replied,” that is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous ! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded.”

The second insisted,” Well I think there is something and may be it’s different than it is here. Maybe we won’t need this physical cord anymore.”

The first replied, “Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes nowhere.”

“Well, I don’t know,” said the second, “but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us.”

The first replied “Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That’s laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?”

The second said.” She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist.”

Said the first: “well I don’t see her, so it is only logical that she doesn’t exit.”

To which the second replied, “ Sometimes, when you’re in silence and you focus and listen, you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above.”

Today is Pentecost: The Church’s birthday! “Before Pentecost, the disciples were unsure of what they were to do next, and spent most of their time in hiding. After Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, they understood their mission to spread the Good News of Jesus, and they had the courage to come out of their hiding and speak openly about who Jesus was, and what he had accomplished by his dying and rising.

Todays Gospel tells us that Jesus breathed on them. The Acts of the Apostles also tells us something similar: A violent wind invaded the house where the Apostles were staying.” His action of breathing inaugurated a new life in them. It means that the gifts of the Holy Spirit commences a new life. And Pentecost marks the birth and creation of the official Church. And it gave clarity of mission to the disciples of Jesus who were hiding behind the curtains. The gifts of the Holy Spirit – Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Fortitude, Good Counsel, Piety, and Fear of the Lord changed the vision of the apostles.

According to Archbishop Romero, who was beatified by Pope Francis on May 23, 2015, Today, “Pentecost is not just one day, but every day.  Without breath, there is no life.  Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones”.  Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's chosen people, we often behave more like God's frozen people--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our faith."  Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love.  On this birthday of the Church let us resolve to be true members of the Church, a spirit filled people, a people ready to carry out the mission entrusted to us. Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, come and renew us, our families, our Church and our world at large.

Let us repeat Cardinal Newman’s favorite little prayer, “Come Holy Spirit:” Let us pray together: “Come Holy Spirit, Make our ears to hear, Make our eyes to see, Make our mouths to speak, Make our hearts to seek, Make our hands to reach out, And touch the world with your love.  AMEN.