



“I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me”

Sunday, May 23, 2021
Solemnity of Pentecost

African American Community of the Diocese of Phoenix

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Never forget these words of St. Paul, “No one can say, Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, we need the Holy Spirit to proclaim the living person of Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to witness to the Lord Jesus. As your Chaplain, I encourage all of you to cultivate a daily devotion to the Holy Spirit. How can we do this?

First, invoke frequently the Holy Spirit. When we pray, “Come Holy Spirit,” we are calling upon the Spirit of Truth and Love. The Holy Spirit makes presence among us the living person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit constantly reminds us of the life of Jesus Christ and all that he taught us for our salvation. Therefore, we should invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit before any major decision. Christians should invoke the Holy Spirit before meetings or gatherings of any type. To invoke the Holy Spirit is the first step of wisdom in the spiritual life. What more can we do to cultivate a devotion to the Holy Spirit?

Follow the inspirations or “lights” of the Holy Spirit. This is the second step to cultivate devotion to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks to us constantly during the day through the scriptures, through prayer, through the sacraments, and through the good example of others. All we need to do is listen and be attentive to the action of the Holy Spirit within us. When we follow the inspirations or “lights” of the Holy Spirit, we become the light of Christ for our brothers and sisters. However, it is not enough to follow the inspirations of the Holy Spirit but we need to mediate them.

To mediate the inspirations or “lights” of the Holy Spirit is the third and final step to foster devotion to the Holy Spirit. This meditation begins when we write down the inspirations of the Holy Spirit to discern in prayer. Our discernment of the Holy Spirit’s inspirations should center on one simple question: What does the Lord want me to do? To do what the Lord wants will transform us into instruments of God’s holiness.

As we celebrate the great solemnity of Pentecost, may we renew our devotion to the Holy Spirit that we may be bold and courageous witnesses of Jesus Christ. May we pray in union with Our Lady, Mama Mary, “Come Holy Spirit!” Let the Church say Amen!

With my priestly blessing,

Fr. Andrew McNair,
Chaplain for the African American Community for the Diocese of Phoenix