

**For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.**

What is it that makes us thirsty? Is it the heat, the work we do or the food we eat? Or is it simply a part of our nature, along with hunger, to thirst, so that we will eat and drink and stay alive? I think the answer is all of the above. We have a natural need for water and certain activities or foods trigger our thirst, telling us we need to replenish.

Our bodies are designed to need water. We can store up fat and then eat nothing, or near nothing for an extended period of time, but we cannot store enough water to keep us alive for any significant amount of time.

And when we are thirsty, we seek something to quench that thirst.

I remember going to see the Blue Angels in a sky show when Judy and I were still newlyweds. If you ever get the chance to see the Navy's Blue Angels or the Air Force Thunderbirds, you should go.

We had to walk a pretty good distance on asphalt to a large viewing area that was also made of asphalt. We were young and inexperienced, so the idea to bring something from the car to drink just didn't occur to us.

While I recall that I had enjoyed the airshow, my most vivid memory was returning to the car and drinking a very cold Coke. Honestly, I can still taste that first gulp.

Just as our bodies hunger and thirst, so do our souls. A soul that lacks nourishment runs the same risk of dying, metaphorically, as does our body.

This Feast of Pentecost is the Church's celebration of God's **living water**, of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

A sip is enough to quench our thirst, but God doesn't want us to just sip of this living water, this Holy Spirit.

He pours it out on us in buckets, in a deluge, so that we might live and live refreshed, invigorated and satisfied.

But too often we keep our lips sealed tight, even as we look up in search of God. Perhaps we are afraid we might drown if we took in too much Holy Spirit, too much God. Afraid that God might ask too much of us, afraid that we are not worthy, or capable, or strong enough, or smart enough, and so we continue to thirst, with life-giving water only a “yes” away.

In the Gospel, we heard of another coming of the Holy Spirit. It was the evening of the first Easter Sunday, when the Risen Christ came to be with the Apostles. He breathed on them, and gave them the Holy Spirit, so that they and their successors, would have from Christ the power to forgive sins.

In our first reading we find the Apostles again gathered together in the Upper Room, where Jesus had celebrated the Last Supper with them on the night before he died. Scripture tells us that they were locked away “for fear of the Jews”. Scripture also tells us that “with one accord, they devoted themselves to prayer”. As they prayed, they remembered what Jesus recently said to them: “Before many days,” he said, “you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

Imagine the scene, rushing, howling winds, tongues of flame, speaking in new and different languages. Later we see them healing the sick, raising the dead..... The disciples were so filled with the Holy Spirit, just the shadows of John and Peter were able to cure the incurable. That is not being afraid, that’s what I call living and living boldly.

We are tempted to think “that was then, this is now” “Do we really need those gifts now that the Church is established?”

Friends, if God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, how could the Holy Spirit scale back its power, it's endless gifts waiting to fill us?

In fact we have already been filled. At Baptism, we received the Holy Spirit. At Confirmation, we are Sealed with it. It is our gift, our inheritance, our heritage as individuals and as the Body of Christ, the Church.

God, in His love and mercy, is not satisfied by filling our cup, but by overfilling it so that the living water may overflow to the world around us.

It is only our fear, our pride, and our unwillingness to surrender our pride and our fears that keeps the Holy Spirit contained in us, reserved, held back, dammed up.... chained down.

And that is how we remain as well. Safe, unchanged and without the fullness of life promised us by Jesus.

And so I ask....Why drink from a "sippy-cup" when the whole well is ours? Why just walk on the edge of the beach when the Ocean invites us to swim?

In Luke, Chapter 12, Jesus says **"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"**

Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in US the fire of your love.

Teach us Lord to drink deeply and be satisfied.