

Reflection

The Holy Spirit, the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

June 2009

Fire, warmth, rushing wind, all these are images of the Spirit of God in the Scriptures.

On the feast of Pentecost we celebrate the **Gift** of the Holy Spirit. I like to recall that, in fact, the Holy Spirit is the gift of the Risen Christ. Jesus promised before his ascension that he would not leave us "orphans." He would send us another advocate who would *be with us* always until the end of time. What Jesus promised his disciples, he promises us as well: the on-going *presence* of the Holy Spirit in our lives. That is the reason for our hope as disciples of God's kingdom.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, 19th Century English poet and Jesuit priest, says it so well: "There lives the dearest, freshness, deep down things...because the Holy Ghost over the bent world broods with warm breast, and ah, bright wings!"



It takes a feast to remind us once again that we are not alone as we struggle with all the difficulties, even tragedies of our lives. There is the warmth of the Spirit, the vitality, the fire of his presence. These images suggest to us Hope. There is meaning in all that happens because the Holy Spirit, God's own Spirit, is present, active, at work in every event. We just need to believe, and **trust**.

By our Baptism we are filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore can bear the fruits of the Spirit, the kind that St. Paul speaks of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. What a wonderful world it would be if we could actually remember that we are filled with these fruits of the Holy Spirit, and that we can call upon them in all our relationships. Pentecost reminds us that we can always call on the Holy Spirit - the gift that keeps on giving!