

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

Today is the birthday of the Church, the Feast of Pentecost! The Disciples were waiting and praying in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, and then there was a noise like a strong driving wind, and tongues as of fire came and rested on each one of them. Then these frightened Disciples went out to the waiting world and proclaimed Jesus Christ risen from the dead – the beginning of the Church.

A lot of times we struggle with our relationship with the Holy Spirit. With the Father, we can imagine a father figure, we see Him as creator, as *Abba*, as Papa. With Jesus, the Son, we see His humanity, and so can imagine Him, and get close to Him. But what are the images of the Holy Spirit in Scripture? A dove. Fire. Wind. Spirit. Hmm... this does not make it easy to figure out how to relate to the Holy Spirit.

Yet the Holy Spirit is no less God than the Father and Son, and desires a relationship with us as with Father and Son. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit draws us to know God. As I wrote last week, without the Holy Spirit, we would have no connection with God, for it is through the Him that we know God.

Let's use an analogy: think about bungee jumping. God the Father is the bridge (from which you jump), God the Son is the diver, and God the Holy Spirit is the bungee cord. God the Son (the "diver") dives into our humanity, down, down, down, even into our death (so that there is nowhere that we can fall that God is not there to catch us), but He's still connected to the Father (the "bridge") by the "bungee cord" of the Holy Spirit, and so He springs back up into the life of the Father. Now, when we get connected to the "bungee cord" of the Holy Spirit (primarily through baptism), we "spring up" into the life of Almighty God! Sounds funny, huh?! Yet, we enter into the very Heart of God's Life by the Holy Spirit.

On this great Feast Day, may we truly be open to all that the Holy Spirit is doing within us to draw us into the Heart of the Father and Son!