

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK  
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Pentecost 2015

Dearly Beloved of the Lord,

“We celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit, the appointed time of the promise and the fulfilment of hope” (*Hymn at Vespers*). It is during this wonderful season of Pentecost as our Lord pours out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us that we receive the full revelation of the Church as we understand it today: “The Holy Spirit gives us all things. It makes prophecies flow, perfects priests, teaches the unlettered wisdom, reveals fishermen to be theologians, and welds together the whole institution of the Church” (*Hymn at Vespers*.) Without the Holy Spirit there would be no Church! In fact, it is essential for us to understand that the gift of the Holy Spirit makes all of the things we experience in the Church possible: Baptism, Chrismation, the Eucharist, Ordination of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, Confession, and above all enabling us to call Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 12:3)!

It is through the Holy Spirit that we attain to every virtue and find the peace of salvation. This happens as we continue to make a place for Him in us as He takes up His abode in the temple of our heart. Let us not imagine we can live the Christian life by ourselves and attain to the promises of our Lord and Savior with our own will power or by merely “being good.” God forbid! It is the Holy Spirit who gives us true spiritual life and the power not just to “be good” but to be sanctified and saved.

Let us look once again to the Bestower of our Sanctification, indeed the cause of our spiritual sight and of every good thing in our life. Let us look to our Lord asking once again that He renew the Holy Spirit in us and that He cause the Holy Spirit to “come and abide in us, to cleanse us from every impurity and to save our souls....”

Asking God's blessing upon you all during the beautiful God given summer months and thanking you again for your love and support of this Most Holy Place, we remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Archimandrite Sergius  
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery  
and the Monastery Brotherhood