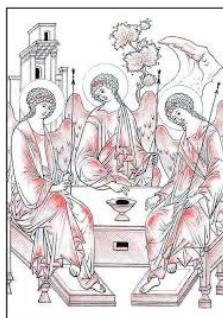


THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK
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Pentecost 2017

Dearly Beloved of God,

The Day of Pentecost is the culminating moment when God poured out His Holy Spirit on all creation thus completing all of His dispensation for us since the beginning of time. Now is the time for us to seize the moment and to take and to make this gift our own. One thing is needful: To acquire the Grace of the All-Holy Spirit. This gift is God's own life which we need to assimilate in order to find our own personal fulfillment. This Holy Spirit is not something extra to us, but rather completes us and makes us whole or rather holy.

It is because God loved us so much that He Himself appeared on earth and saved us in such a way that there is no room to ask: "Does God know my pain or does He really love me?" The answer to these questions are the Cross. The Cross on which we see the Lord of Glory stretched out: His hands to embrace us, His nailed feet showing us His steadfast fidelity which will never forsake us, and His mouth saying "Father, forgive them." Descending through the Cross into Hades that He might fill all things, He freed us from the power of death and made for all flesh a real and true path to that place "that He went to prepare for us" that we might be with Him to behold and share His Glory forever.

The gift of Pentecost is the fulfillment of the promised hope given so long ago by the Prophets and all the Old Testament Righteous. Let us receive this gift, plowing our heart with our trials and temptations, making soft its ground so we might be able to be watered with the "living water" that the Lord gives to those who love and obey Him. Rejoicing in this present mystery, we extend our festal greetings and love to you this day and every day. Be assured of our prayers, spiritual support and concern for you and your family. We ask you for your prayers and thank you for all the love you continue to show to America's oldest Orthodox Monastery.

With love in Christ, we remain,

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