



ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY
175 ST. TIKHON'S RD. WAYMART-SOUTH CANAAN

Holy Pentecost 2020

Beloved of the Lord,

When St. Paul encountered a group of new disciples in Ephesus, he asked them: "Have you received the Holy Spirit?" And they answered: "We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2). Sometimes we live in such a way as to forget "that there is a Holy Spirit" and all too often offend that good and upright Spirit who longs to be renewed within us (cf. Ps. 50:10). How often a careless word, criticism of a neighbor, or a bad thought can break our communion with the One who is our peace!

This season of Pentecost is given us as a reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in our hearts and lives. To reacquire and to keep the grace of the All-holy Spirit is the true work of our life of repentance in the Church. We must work to conform our own spirit to the grace of the Holy Spirit in all we do. As St. Sophrony of Essex once said: "never sacrifice the right spirit for anything."

Though we may be forgetful of this, Orthodox Christians have already received the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Chrismation. Our daily task, then, is to turn within and to uncover that Gift that may lie hidden. We must strive each day to remember God, to pray and beseech Him to renew within us a right spirit, a spirit of love. Only thus will we begin to understand the mystery of Pentecost in the upper room of our own heart.

We thank you for your continued support, love, and prayers. We are here for you and ask for your prayers! Be assured of our prayers for all of your requests during these turbulent times. Let us all pray again that the Lord will renew in us His All-holy and life-giving Spirit unto healing, salvation, and life eternal.

With much love in Christ,

Father Archimandrite Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery