

**THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK**

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**Feast of Pentecost Summer 2021**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the fulfillment of our hope with the coming of the All-Holy Spirit. This season has been given to us to renew our commitment to God and His Spirit which longs to abide in us. It is this very spirit which spoke through the law and prophets and foretold that which was to come: that God is with us. He is with us not only His Son, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ but even more closely in the Comforter, Whom the Lord promised to those who obey him. It is this challenge of obeying the Lord, His Word and His Spirit which offers us a life time of wondrous struggle, working not just for physical sustenance but most especially for the spiritual bread which the Son of God gives to us and enables us to live forever. Our commitment to God is not a one-time event whether at baptism or a return from to the Church but rather a moment by moment turning to the Lord, beseeching His blessing, His assistance and His in-dwelling which cleanses us from all impurity and saves our souls. Our walking moment by moment with the Lord, a constant turning in to our own heart to be mindful of God and remember His Word is the essence of our spiritual life and breath. The challenges of the modern world seem to loom larger and grow greater as time continues. However, scripture reminds us: "Greater is He that is in me than he who is in the world." As we turn to God and His grace grows within our hearts, slowly over the course of our Christian life, Christ' word is fulfilled in us: "That they may be made one, I in them and Thou [Father] in me, that they be made perfect in one. I in them and Thou and in Me, that they be made perfect..." Beloved of God, let us renew our commitment to God this day choosing to love God and love each other as Christ loves us, laying down our lives for those whom we find to be providentially placed in our life. Love thinks no evil, love is kind, love prays for others as their very own selves, knowing that the only thing love cannot do is fail. May God renew His spirit in us as we renew our commitment to Him, to walk in His light and His love. May God bless you all and be assured of our love and our prayers as we continue to whether the storms of life together in the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Archimandrite Sergius.

Archimandrite Sergius  
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery