



THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK
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Pentecost 2013

Beloved of the Lord,

We greet you with joy at the coming of the Holy Spirit on this feast of Holy Pentecost. Prophesied by the Prophet Joel in the Old Testament, the Promise of the Holy Spirit was given to all: “And it shall come to pass, says the Lord, that I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh.” It is only through the power of Spirit of God’s Holy Spirit that we can objectively know and understand truly Who God is: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our faith is not subjective but rather an entrance into a corporate vision of truth that has been confirmed by an innumerable multitude of holy men and women throughout the ages.

If there is anything good, or right, or true in us, it is due to the presence of the Spirit of what is eternally Good, Right and True. Let us thank our loving God Who so richly continues to pour out the salvific, sanctifying gift of Himself on our souls and bodies. Let us recognize our need to continually stretch again and again in peace towards prayer, repentance and spiritual life. By placing all our hope in the Lord and in His power to guide, help, and save us, we will not despair in our task of living our Orthodox Christian life in our busy modern world. Let us again yet again turn continually to the One Who is able to do “exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think...”

Be assured of our love and for you and your loved ones as we continue to pray throughout this year until our Lord comes again: “O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, come and abide in *us*, cleanse *us* from every sin and save *our* souls, O Good One.”

With love in Christ,

Fr. Igumen Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon’s Monastery