

## Covenant Life

- Next Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm, join us for a special Pentecost Prayer Meeting.
- This week we continue our daily 7pm *Community-wide* praying of the **Holy Spirit Novena**. Please join as often as you can; the Novena text is [here](#), the zoom link is [here](#).
- After our Pentecost Gathering, we will have a small reception to honor Neil Coward for his lifetime of Community leadership service. If you are able consider bringing an individually wrapped appetizer or dessert to share.
- We are preparing for Pentecost through a **Let the Fire Fall Challenge** (details are [here](#)). This week's **Challenge** exhorted us to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to our mind a brother or sister who, by living a life in the Spirit, called us on in our faith and then to share this with them. It is not too late to respond!
- The Word Gift from our recent Gatherings for reflection and study are here: [audio](#), [summaries](#), and [transcripts](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - The Catholic Church today celebrates the Ascension of our Lord.

The message of the Ascension is themed around the final words of Jesus to His disciples. We know the significance of one's *final words* and how important it is to pay careful attention. Part one (from [Acts 1:1-11](#)) Jesus told His disciples to *stay and wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. Part two (from [Mk 16:15-20](#)) Jesus told His disciples *Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature*. This is where we get the Church's exhortation to be Missionary Disciples or Disciples on Mission. We are called to be disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit on the mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

Disciples on Mission captures well my experience of Community. From the early days we were formed into being His Disciples. Through teaching, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Bible Study, our relationship and ongoing formation we were led into a deep personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as His disciples. We were also about outreach and being His Witnesses. There was the obvious Community wide TV and Conference outreach but there was also the daily witness

of our lives as a covenant people. We were a peculiar people dedicated to hearing His Word and then acting in faith to follow Him. As Bobbie often stated, our mission was to love one another and let our love for one another be our witness.

I think this is what Paul was getting at in the second reading today ([Eph 4:1-13](#)). Paul urged the Ephesians to "live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

To be honest, without the experience of our covenant life, reading this exhortation it would be easy for me to say that what Paul is asking is impossible. Living a life of humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and complete unity is easy to say but seemingly impossible. We know however that nothing with God is impossible. In Him, and through His Holy Spirit, we have the power to do the impossible...to be humble and gentle, to be patient and forbear, to live in total harmony and unity with one another. This is the witness of the Christian Community of God's Delight. This is your witness to me and my witness to you...48 years of living the Gospel and responding to Jesus' final words.

We have not been perfect; we have made countless mistakes and have hurt many along the way. And for each of these, we apologize. But we stand here together, Sunday after Sunday, zoom call after zoom call, small groups, bible studies...continuing to do our best to be His Disciples on Mission, to be His Witnesses! Let us press on and run the race until we are called home!

*Let us pray "Heavenly Father, as a Community we repent for the times we have hurt or neglected one another. It is our sincere desire to be reconciled and restored as one people, Your People, that You called together to love and serve Your children in the North Texas area. Bring us back together as one so that we can be about Your work. Jesus, we accept the mission You challenged us with to go into the whole world and proclaim Your Gospel to every creature. Empower our*

*Yes through the power of Your Holy Spirit. We love You Lord and give ourselves completely into Your hands. Amen."*

God bless,

David