

JUNE 2017



*When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

Acts 2:1-4

My dear friends,

June 4<sup>th</sup> is the Day of Pentecost. It is the Birthday of the Church, the day when the apostles, together in the upper room in Jerusalem received the Holy Spirit. That day must have been confusing, noisy and messy. People had flames sprouting from their heads. The noise of a violent wind filled the ears of everyone present. What a scene! Bystanders who saw what was going on thought the Christians were drunk—they couldn't make sense of the chaos.

With all this crazy noise and confusion, Pentecost is essentially a feast of unity. Jesus promised the Apostles that after he ascended into heaven that they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. They would not be left alone; they would have an advocate, a helper. With this helper, the Apostles were sent out into the world to spread the Good News and to baptize people in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Multiple languages, sending people out around the world—how can this be a celebration of unity? All people languages are united in One Spirit, One Lord, One Baptism. No matter language we speak, no matter the country of our birth, we are all one people, speaking and hearing the language of love. This is love in action, make no mistake. We receive the Holy Spirit, not to be complacent, not to accept things as they are. We receive this lively, noisy, messy Spirit so that we are inwardly changed, so that we can go out and change the world.

Your sister in Christ,  
Mother Bonnie+