Feast of Pentecost (June 5, 2022) Acts 2:1-11; Rom. 8:8-17; Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26.

Today’s Gospel tells us that was what happened to the apostles. They all were traumatized by the arrest and crucifixion of their master and bewildered by his post-Resurrection appearances and his command to prepare for the coming of his Holy Spirit. Hence on the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit whispered encouragement to the disciples. The Holy Spirit transformed the feeble efforts of the timid disciples into something powerful. Thus, like the Apostles, in a world in much need of love and reconciliation, the Holy Spirit arrives like a strong gust of wind to liberate us from our dark places of isolation, loneliness, disappointment, and woundedness. Indeed, the Holy Spirit arrives and fills our spaces with hope and the knowledge that we have not been left alone.

**Summary:** “The feast of Pentecost celebrates the unseen, Immeasurable Presence of God in our lives and in our Church – the “Ruah” Who animates us to do the work of the Gospel of the Risen One, the Ruah Who makes God’s will our will, the “Ruah” Who IS God living in us and transforming us so that we may bring His life and love to our broken world. In short, God “breathes” His Spirit into our souls that we may live in His life and love; God ignites the “fire” of His Spirit within our hearts and minds that we may seek God in all things in order to realize the coming of His reign.”

**STORY:** **“Treasure within”:** An old beggar laying on his deathbed, gave these last words to his young son who usually accompanied him on his begging trips**: “Dear son," he said, “I have nothing to give you except a cotton bag and a dirty bronze bowl which I got in my younger days from the junk yard of a rich lady.”** After his father’s death, the boy continued begging, using the bowl his father had given him. One day a gold merchant dropped a coin in the boy’s bowl, and he was surprised to hear a familiar ring. **“Let me check your bowl,”** the merchant said. To his great surprise, he found that the beggar’s bowl was made of pure gold. **“My dear young man," he said, “why do you waste your time begging? You are a rich man. That bowl of yours is worth at least thirty thousand dollars.”**

**Life Message:** We Catholic Christians are often like this beggar boy who failed to recognize and appreciate the value of his bowl. We fail to appreciate the infinite worth of the Holy Spirit living within each of us, sharing His gifts and fruits and charisms with us. Many of us can identify with the apostles. Life has sucked us up, thrown cold water on us, and blown us away. Somewhere in the trauma, we have lost our song. Hence, we, too, need the daily anointing of the Holy Spirit to keep us singing songs of Christian witnessing through agápe love.

**Conclusion:** On this major feast day, we are invited to experience and appreciate the transforming, sanctifying, and strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit within us. It is the Holy Spirit Who confronts us and urges us to take a good look at ourselves and where we are heading, **to make a U-turn, to leave the old behind and to try something new. Spirit-filled people speak words that heal, restore, make people happy and build people up, instead of tearing them down. Spirit-filled people pass on the love of God to the people living around them by their acts of kindness, mercy and charity.**

Hence, let us ask the Holy Spirit for a spirit of love instead of hate, a spirit of helpfulness instead of non-cooperation, a spirit of generosity instead of greed, and a spirit of gentleness in place of our spirit of ruthlessness. He’s the One Who says to us**, "Stop being so self-focused. Stop looking into yourself all the time and being depressed by what you see or deceiving yourself into thinking that what you see in yourself is enough to get you through! Look up, look away, look to Jesus and let Him turn you around; let Him take control!"**