

From the Director

Cultivating Pentecost in Family Life Part I

Each spring the Church in her wisdom gives us the opportunity to celebrate the glorious feast of Pentecost and rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The grace of Pentecost is meant to transform our lives and our world, just as it did for those first followers of Christ. It often seems, however, that once we walk out the church doors, the culture of death, secularism, and materialism begin to bombard us, pulling our hearts and thoughts far from the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. How do we take hold of this unfathomable gift of love and power, and begin to cultivate a culture of life-giving Pentecost, which will bring our hearts, our families, and ultimately, our world, back into union with the very heart of God? Perhaps taking a closer look

at the word “culture” may provide some insight.

Culture and cultivation come from the same Latin word *cultura*, meaning “to till the soil,” preparing it for a season of planting and growing. It is our responsibility to “till the soil” of our hearts and our homes in order to be prepared to receive the abundant harvest the Holy Spirit wants to reap in our lives. Cultivating a culture of Pentecost means going far beyond the celebration of a day or a season; it means living out a perpetual Pentecost, day by day, moment by moment being fully receptive to the voice and action of the Spirit. Any gardener will tell you that tilling and preparing the soil is hard work. However, it is crucial to the harvest that will follow. The parable of the sower tells us that bad soil produces a poor crop but good soil will produce even a hundredfold! Here are

some tips for ensuring a bountiful Holy Spirit harvest.

BREAK UP THE GROUND. Our hearts become hardened with the cares, worries, and frustrations of daily life. Only consistent, daily prayer can soften and break open the soil. It is vital to set aside a specific time each day for personal prayer, and a regular time for prayer with the whole family. We have found that simple intercessory prayer, the rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet work well with our children. Praying individually, and together as a family, helps to keep our hearts softened towards God and each other.

*by Brien and Debbie Bensel
Pentecost Today, July –
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Holy Spirit
fill our
families



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*Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of
Thy faithful and
enkindle in them
the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit
and they shall be
created and Thou
shall renew the face
of the earth.
AMEN*

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