**The Eucharist: The Sacrament of Virtues**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

Pentecost turns around the human situation from fear because of sin to love because of the redemption brought by Jesus.

* Genesis 11:1-9 is the story of the tower of Babel. This is the classic story of when humanity decided to corrupt its nature with pride. Since then, it has been going down from one evil behavior to another.
* Pentecost is the event that has come to correct the event of Genesis 11:1-9. As we all know, fixing a problem is always not easy. Vice is the wide path to destruction, while virtue is the narrow path to life and eternal life.
* We see the fear that gripped the disciples before the coming of the Holy Spirit. They were terrified, they faced hostility and persecution from those used by the evil one to kill the joy of God.
* It is very important what spirit people allow to possess them. Let us be possessed by the true Spirit of God.
* St Cyril of Alexandria: “With the Spirit within them (us) it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become entirely other-worldly in outlook, and for cowards to become men of great courage.”
* Romans 8:10-11; “But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. …”
* The Spirit of Christ brings resurrection and life. Evil spirit kills everything in man; it enslaves and it takes away the joy of good life.

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11; tells the story of what happened when the Spirit took possession of the disciples of Jesus Christ.

* “When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”
* The Holy Spirit transformed the Church of Christ to become courageous witnesses to the world. She became to the world, the sign of the presence of God.
* They come out of isolation and fear in order to start to announce the Good News. This is what the world has been waiting for and they cannot but respond to it.
* The power of the Holy Spirit gave them courage and propelled them into action. The Holy Spirit transformed cowards into heroes.

2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; As he writes to the Corinthians, St Paul makes some things clear about the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

* That we are able to acknowledge who Jesus is through the power of the Holy Spirit.
* That the Holy Spirit gives different kinds of spiritual gifts. Everyone is therefore, to use the gifts given for the growth of the Body of Christ.

Gospel: John 20:19-23; Christ himself appeared to the disciples and gave them the gift of life and the Holy Spirit.

* “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”
* He revealed Himself to them, breathed on them and sent them on mission.
* The Holy Spirit is still very much with the Church in everything. He teaches, lives and is the soul of the Church in all that the Church is accomplishing.