

This Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, is a special day. It is the day of Pentecost. On that day, weeks after Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, and days after he ascended to heaven, the disciples were gathered in an upper room when suddenly a violent wind swept through the space and tongues of flame danced over their heads. The disciples began to speak in other languages, which people walking by heard and understood.

On this day, the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised to send to the disciples, came upon them and the Church was born. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit each year on Pentecost. However, sometimes we can forget what that gift entails. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers us and guides us as Christians. The following reflection by one person illustrates what the Holy Spirit brings to the Church.

Coming out of the store, she turned the key in the ignition, and there was no response. The battery was dead. "Dead" is a good word for the whole car when the battery is not operating. Without a battery, no lights flicker, no dashboard indicators work. Every element in the whole engine can be in fine working order, but without the battery, the car will do nothing.

While waiting for jumper cables, she thought about how the car without a battery is like a Christian without the Holy Spirit. Right after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the disciples just sat there, not knowing what to do. When her husband arrived with the jumper cables, he hooked the cables between his live battery and the dead one. Soon, power flowed into my car. It could now take me on the rest of my trip. The same thing happened to the disciples at Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit reached them, they were filled with the power needed to spread the gospel of Christ. The gathered disciples previously had all the equipment needed to do God's work — all except the power. They needed the power of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit, we are like that car — a perfectly good engine, a capable driver, but no power. The Holy Spirit continues to pour out power on Jesus' disciples. Each one of us receives the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit, equipping us for the ministry God has prepared for us.

This Sunday, celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in the church and in your life!