

Food for the Journey ...

You would be aware that the most exciting event in our Institute for this month of June is the launch of *Mercy... Our Pilgrimage of Hope* on the feast of Pentecost – the birthday of the Church with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful and meaningful feast to start our pilgrimage. We are commissioned on a pilgrimage journey not on our own but with the Advocate, the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures (Acts 2:1-11) state that on Pentecost day tongues of fire came and rested on the head of each of Jesus' followers and they started to speak in 'foreign languages' but the audiences were amazed because they could understand as if the disciples spoke in each of their languages.



There are a couple of elements from this scripture which I invite us to ponder and to carry as the sign that the Holy Spirit is with us in this Jubilee year on our Pilgrimage of Hope. These elements are the Fire that Transforms, and the Language of Communion.

Is there any fire that does not burn or destroy?

The tongues of fire on the heads of the disciples did not burn them, but kindled in them a proclamation of God's word which led the audiences to awe and amazement.

Another example of the sign of the presence of God and of the fire of the Holy Spirit is the story of the burning bush in Exodus (3:1-17) where the bush was not consumed.

In this experience Moses encountered God and realised he was on Holy Ground. The fire that transforms is when we allow God's grace to dispel our fear of unknown futures.

Do the words we use create fear or hope, more confusion or greater understanding?

We are told that at Pentecost the people were gathered together in one place in Jerusalem, meaning they were united, in unity and in communion after running away out of fear after the death of Jesus. Where there is communion, there the Holy Spirit is present; there the common language of God's love is spoken; there people have the ability to listen and understand as if they are hearing their own mother tongue speaking in their hearts.

May we open our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit and God's grace in this special Jubilee year, realising the "amazement" in one another and the countless blessings in our lives. Gratefully we carry and share the fire that transforms and the language of communion along our Mercy journey, our Pilgrimage of Hope.

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