



In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and gave his peace. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you." The condition of Jesus' disciples are not far from what we are living at the moment. We, as one big family of humanity, succumbed to fear and uncertainty of the reality we are in; there is so much ambiguity and discord that is happening within us and among us. On the Solemnity of Pentecost, Jesus tells us repeatedly, "Peace be with you." This very word of Jesus assures us of his loving presence. And the Spirit of Peace will turn our sadness into joy, doubts to trust and confidence, brokenness to restoration, division and conflict to unity.

After Jesus gave his peace to his disciples he said... "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he 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." From fear, the disciples proclaimed the Gospel in different tongues as mentioned in Acts. The Spirit impelled them to go out on mission, giving witness of the love of God to his people specially to the least, lost and last.

And as we celebrate the birth of the Church on this Pentecost Sunday, may our prayer be, "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." With confidence, let us ask our loving God to breathe in us, his Spirit; to restore our brokenness, to revive our dying spirit, and to renew our very life. A life that proclaims the joy of the risen Christ and that gives witness to the infinite love of God; a presence that heals, restores, and forgives.

