

From the Inside Out...

John 20: 19 - 23

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JUNE 9, 2019

Today's Gospel, John tells us that from the very day Jesus rose from the dead His communication with the disciples was made through the Spirit. The Spirit who "breathed" into them, gave them discernment, joy and power to forgive the sins of all humanity, to live as a community.

God wants to communicate with us, to speak our own language, to talk to us from life around us as much as from our interior and our inner desires. He speaks to us from our deep anxieties and even from our wounds.

Pentecost may be a good time to tune into the voice of God who speaks the language of each heart.

A little girl was visiting her grandmother one beautiful spring morning. They walked out into grandmother's flower garden. As grandmother was inspecting the progress of her flowers the little girl decided to try to open a rosebud with her own two hands. But no luck! As she would pull the petals open, they would tear or bruise or wilt or break off completely. Finally, in frustration, she said, "Grama, I just don't understand it at all. When God opens a flower, it looks so beautiful but when I try, it just comes apart." "Well, honey," Grandmother answered, "There's a good reason for

that. God is able to do it because He works from the inside out!"

God Works From the Inside Out. That is the great message of Pentecost Sunday, isn't it? This is what the disciples finally came to understand at Pentecost. Jesus had ascended into Heaven. And He had told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

The early Christians in creating the symbol of Peace were very wise to show the dove descending because peace does indeed come from above. Inner peace... the poise, the serenity, the courage, the confidence to meet life and its troubles with steady eyes comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

That's the good news of our faith and the message of Pentecost... God is with us right now working from the inside out, giving us the Breath of Life, the Fire Power of Commitment... and the Peace That Passes All Understanding.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." We are sent into the world, not empty handed, but overflowing with the peace and joy of the Spirit. We are called to trust that the Spirit will be with us in whatever suffering, confusion or anxiety we encounter, and when we don't know what to do or say, we can trust in the simplicity of the prayer "Come Holy Spirit".