



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

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Pentecost

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

Imagine the fire of God's love, kindled in the hearts of the faithful, similar to the appearance of a tiny shaft of light coming under a closed door. Certainly, the contagion of the pandemic has closed many doors, and has created much darkness in the lives of the human family and our own families - much like the closed doors of the upper room where the disciple gathered in fear. The Holy Spirit came through even the smallest cracks of the closed doors to fill the hearts of the first disciples, and will do the same for all people of good will seeking light in times of darkness.

This Pentecost we are invited to imagine our own hearts filled with a fire of love - enough to boldly imagine a renewed face of the earth. Similar to a small light that shines through the cracks of a closed door, possibilities of renewal emerge, now that our interconnected vulnerability is so very clearly illuminated. Come, Holy Spirit, confirm in us a bold imagination of a love greater than fear, and a courageous commitment to act and pray confidently for the renewal of the face of the earth.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created...for grace, to take up the right of the cross and die to self: *"The Spirit gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God. If we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so as to be glorified with Him"* (Rm. 8:16,17) Created for responsibility, to "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn. 15:12). Created, such that *"in a world torn by strife, your people may shine forth as a prophetic sign of unity and concord."* (Eucharistic Prayer I for Various Needs and Occasions, Roman Missal)

Come Holy Spirit, renew our spirits, and confirm us as agents of hope beyond the possibilities of human progress; to an enduring hope, as expressed by St. Basil the Great in his treatise on the Holy Spirit: *"Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations - we become God."*

This Pentecost, may the Holy Spirit, fire of love, warm your heart with love so that the encounter with Christ's merciful gaze may come to all, and renew the face of the earth.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria