

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2010

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning. Can everybody hear me? I think they over killed it. But anyway at least you can hear me. Today as we come and celebrate the Feast of Pentecost by definition the Holy Spirit is the one who gives us life and He changes our relationship with God from being a creature or just a follower into a beloved son and daughter. This past Wednesday I got to go to confession. The infamous Fr. Peterson calls and says, "Larry, I think I should see you." That is usually because someone called him from here and told him I did something bad and he calls me to yell at me. I said, "What did I do? I haven't done anything for awhile," as far as I know. "What did I do now?" He goes, "Nothing. I just miss you." I go, "Uh huh. Sure." So anyway, I went down and it was nice. He heard my confession – it had been over a month which is long for me before my last confession. And usually at the end of my confession he looks at me and He says, "Isn't it great that God loves a jerk like you?" And I always go, "Yeah isn't it great God loves a jerk like me," which is a true statement, I know you would all agree. This time Fr. Peterson looked at me at the end and he says, "Larry, God says to you, "Larry you are My son in who I am well pleased." Whoa, just don't do that to me! I am willing to get hit. I am willing to be yelled at. I don't want to be affirmed. That is part of the reality.

And yet this is what God says to me and He says to you in the Second Reading tonight. Now this morning when I woke up I was in a phenomenal mood which again is a very rare thing for me. The sun was shining. I prayed before I even got out of bed. I did my morning prayer. I prayed for the outpouring of the Spirit. I said, "Lord help me to surrender fully, fully, fully to Your heart." I come down and I took Rex out and I came back in and Rex peed on the floor, it started. Then I get a text from my classmate, Fr. Nick and during the night his father died. Fr. Nick Rouch, if you know him and pray for his family, pray for him. His father died nice. Then I start going on a tail dive. Then I went over and the dog peed on the floor again. Not a good thing. Then I get another text from someone and it says, "Father you have got to be here tonight" and I can't be here. The funeral will probably be Wednesday or Thursday and I am going to be in Mobile Alabama. Again, everything just boom, boom, boom. So I walk in and GRRR... if he pees on the floor one more time, he peed on the floor one more time. I was just like, I woke up in a great mood and now I am ready to kill people in a gentle kind, compassionate manner.

Then in the midst of Mass I kept saying, "Lord, You have got to do something because You have got to get me calm because I was kind of upset. I just started saying, "Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit." I was reminded of the same thing Fr. Peterson told me on Wednesday. "Larry, you are My beloved son with whom I am well pleased." "Even when I am in a bad mood?" "Even when you are in a bad mood" and then that can lift me up and can give me some peace. And so it must be the same with all of us. The Spirit is also called the Paraclete. What else is the Spirit called? He is called the Comforter. The Spirit comes in the midst of where ever we are at any particular day. None of us are perfect in case you are wondering. And yet this Spirit meets us where we are at and He comforts us. And when He comforts us, the way He comforts us is He reminds us who we are in God. When the Spirit comes inside of us, He cries out within us, "Abba, Father ." That you and I are loved by our Father. And that our Father never wants to be far from us so He takes up residence inside of us by the power of the Holy Spirit. And in the midst of all the garbage of our life, in the midst of everything else we can stay

focused on the moment or focused on the sadness or focused on the reality of the garbage that is happening or we can stay focused on our Father. And the Father looks at you and me and says we are beloved. We are never alone. That the spirit He gives us is the Spirit who gives us true life, true life. That He wants you and me to be more alive today not less alive, more alive. And that He comes and He makes that possible. But the key for all of us is we have got to stop and we got to surrender to that. If we keep on our own power then we will stay in our mood. We will stay in the anxiety. We will stay in the garbage that we find ourselves in. But if we can stop in the midst, breathe, and surrender then the spirit can do great things for you and me.

I put in the bulletin, again, the prayer of daily surrender by Cardinal Mercier. I hand it out at least once a year just to remind people that if you are going to have a spiritual life you can't do it by going through the motions of saying prayers. You can't have a spiritual life by just going through the motions, I say my prayers every day. It isn't going to work. You will be a Pharisee. The only way you and I will have a spiritual life which is alive is by the Spirit of God. So there must be the daily surrender of your life to God's Spirit. There must be. So again I would encourage you to take a bulletin today cut out the little prayer I put in there and make sure for the rest of the your life, for the rest of your life, for the rest of your life, for the rest of your life, are there any questions, for the rest of your life, every day that you say that prayer of surrender. That you fully surrender to God and don't just go through the motions, but truly say the prayer. And if you and I continue to say that prayer then when we go crazy then we have open to us the power that God wants to give us. Stop, surrender and let the Spirit take over. That He can take the miserable and the anxiety and the horribleness of your day and give you peace because He can show you what the Father is and who you are. Think about it at this very moment God is looking at you and saying, "You are My beloved daughter. You are My beloved son." And our cry needs to be by the power of God's Spirit, Abba and you are my Dad, my Dad. My Dad, who isn't out to get me. Who didn't create me to be mad at me. Who created me and created you because He loves us. He is always on our side.

So, today He wants to enter more intimately with a relationship with you. And He gave you the power to do that by the power of the Holy Spirit. For us to truly do it we need to use this gift. Surrender to the person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit of God to enter us into the newest relationship and the most important relationship in our lives. We are beloved sons. We are beloved daughters. And we don't cry out creator, we cry out Father, Abba, Daddy, Papa. You got it? Get it? Going to do it? Please. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.