

FROM THE DESK OF MARY SHARON . . .

## ***The world needs Pentecost***

by Mary Sharon Moore

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If I were designing the Church's liturgical calendar, I would extend the celebration of Pentecost far beyond one day. Pentecost marks the culmination of the ninety-day Lenten-Easter season and our personal journey into the dying and rising to new life in the risen Lord.

Pentecost is a spiritual pivot, orienting Spirit-filled apostles toward the vocation of being Church and toward the work of revealing God's reign here and now. Staying in the upper room behind locked doors was not then, and is not now, an option.

We need Pentecost, not merely to remind us of what the early apostles experienced, but to attune us to God's calling and our response to be Church in our world today, to stand in the place of Christ Jesus, to be his presence, in our world today.

In this sense, the world, too, needs Pentecost. More than it knows, our world today needs the fruit of our faithfulness to the crucified and risen Christ, the fruit of our faithfulness to Gospel mercy and justice, the fruit of our faithfulness to living as Jesus lived—generously for the sake of the world.

The refrain of the responsorial psalm for Pentecost rolls out like a ball of living fire:

“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!” This one phrase contains the unfathomable longings of the Holy Spirit of which St. Paul writes: “For we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit itself intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

Baptized into Christ as we are, we not only pray this prayer, but participate its answer. God does not want to accomplish this unimaginable renewal of humankind and of all creation without us. Rather, the Holy Spirit confers on us a unique dignity of participating in God's work of healing, peacemaking, and restoring so that Christ can be all in all.

This first-person share in God's plan is vocational work of the highest magnitude. How we participate, individually, in this noble work of redemption shapes and expressed our personal vocation.

Join me in praying this most ardent prayer of Pentecost: “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!”

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