

Pentecost – A Celebration of Possibilities

By Bro Silas Henderson, SDS

Centuries ago, a hermit in the deserts of Egypt wrote: "The heart directs and governs all the organs of the body. And when grace pastures the heart, it rules over all the members and the thoughts. For there, in the heart, the mind abides, as well as all of the thoughts of the soul and its hopes. This is how grace penetrates throughout all the parts of the body."

This author, known to us as "Pseudo-Macarius," had the sense that the heart is where a person's spirit and the Spirit of God exist together. The mind—the seat of rational thought—is made complete when it resides in the heart and is enlightened by "all the thoughts of the soul and all its hopes." Although our mind is an essential part of who we are, we are only at our best when our minds and hearts move together.



As we continue our journey through the Easter Season and anticipate the great Solemnity of Pentecost (celebrated May 19), we are being invited to reflect upon this unity of mind and heart—a unity that brings individuals together in bonds of faith and love.

With all this in mind, we see that Pentecost is a celebration of possibilities for individual believers and the whole Church; the Pentecost of the first Christians was a witnessing of the power of the Spirit for the future.

This future is lived out in each of us in the little moments of our lives when we allow the Spirit to lead us.

As individual believers and as a Church, we must seek out and heal those wounds that threaten the body of humanity and the body of Christ. Fear, discrimination, war, disregard for life, bullying, and exploitation are among the many forces of evil that lead people away from the community and into loneliness and isolation.

Our Pentecost mission is to share our gifts and spend ourselves nurturing others, drawing them into the unity of the Spirit and the Church, and opening ourselves to the workings of the Spirit in the diversity of others' gifts and lives.

In the Divine Savior,

Bro, Silas Henderson, SDS



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