



Share the gifts of the Holy Spirit

There is a young boy who loves to play with the TV remote control. To annoy his brothers and sisters, he keeps changing channels when they are watching television, until they decided to take the battery out of the remote control. The young boy quickly gets bored because the remote control no longer works, he then abandons his toy. The remote control is useless without its battery (internal power).

Before Pentecost, the disciples of Jesus were looking for an external victory. They wanted Jesus to drive out the Roman occupying power and take over political supremacy. They had been hampered by their vision of a Messiah who would fulfil their ambition and easy promotion. All they could see was external. Jesus' death as a criminal had shattered their false expectations and only then was Jesus able to rise again. Jesus ascended into heaven after he promised his disciples the Holy Spirit will come to them. "The Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (Jn 14:26).

At Pentecost the disciples were able to see the real Jesus and the real message that had been there all the time. They became aware that the power was within, that the message of Christ was about internal attitude, it was about uniting and removing barriers of language and race and domination. It was significant that they immediately began to reach beyond barriers. Language and culture were no longer a block but the sources of enriching the gift of unity in diversity.

Pentecost Sunday challenges us to overcome all barriers which prevented from reaching out to share with others the fruit of the Spirit in us: "love, joy, peace patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self control" (Gal 5:22). May we become the sharers of these gifts and be the proclaimers of the presence of the Lord who is risen.