

pre-eminence of the Church. . . depends on its absolute unity: it excels all other things, and has no equal or rival.

*St. Clement of Alexandria*



## HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

### Pentecost

Occurring 50 days after Easter, Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples, empowering them to speak the Good News all over the known world. Pentecost, *Hokekalousd*, falls this year on June 7. This feast is sometimes referred to as "the birthday of the Church," for it was after this experience that the disciples went out and established Christian communities in such wide and diverse places as Greece, Rome, Armenia, Antioch and Egypt.

Our Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples (Jn 14:16-17, 25-26, 16:7, Lk 24:49) to enable them to fulfill their mission. According to the story in Luke's Gospel, after the Ascension the disciples returned to Jerusalem where they remained until the Pentecost. And it was the pivotal Pentecost experience which no doubt served as the source of inspiration and comfort for the disciples through the hardships and difficulties they endured the remainder of their lives.

The Pentecost story is recorded in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. While the Bible does not detail where each of the apostles went to preach the Gospel after the Pentecost experience. Tradition teaches us that Thaddeus eventually made his way to Armenia, and Bartholomew followed him a short while later. But it was the coming of the Holy Spirit upon each of the people gathered in the Upper Room in the rush of the wind and tongues of fire which enabled them to speak the various languages necessary for their world-wide missionary endeavor.

God the Holy Spirit, who transformed the hapless group of Jesus' followers into men and women who changed the world, still leads and empowers the Church. He comes to each of us at our Chrismation (*Gnoonk*), to unleash the ability to live as a new creation, to help us in the Christian way. Chrismation is for each Christian a 'personal Pentecost.'

The Church's teaching about the Holy Spirit is

found in Scripture and in her creeds. In the Nicene Creed we profess our belief that the Holy Spirit is God, *perfect and not created*, and who revealed himself *in the law, in the prophets and in the Gospels*. Our *sharagans* also express the Church's faith in God the Holy Spirit, an example of which follows on this page.

The Feast of Pentecost, although it occurred once in Jerusalem more than 1950 years ago, it can recur in our own lives today. The Holy Spirit continues to work within us, and through us, to effect change in our lives and in the lives of others.

#### Jashou Hymn for Pentecost

The Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father as from a living source, and who is Lord together with the Son, was mightily poured this day from heaven upon the company of the apostles and filled them all. Let us bless and worship him.

The Holy Spirit, who brooding over the waters brought the creatures into being and who is ruler jointly with the Father and the Son, this day did regenerate all the nations, making living waters flow in Jerusalem. Let us bless and worship him.

*Որ ի հարաշարժ ի յազրերէն յառաջ իջնեսալ,  
անհատարար ի յնրդոյ տիրապէս Սուրբ Հոգին. այսօր  
ի յերկնից սաստիկ հեղեալ ի դասս առաքելոցն  
լըցուցիչ բոլորից. ըզնա օրհնեսցուք երկըրպագելով:*

*Որ ի վերայ ջուրըն զուով զոյացոյց դարարածս,  
անանջըրպեան ի Հօրէ եւ յնրդոյ իշխանակից Սուրբ  
Հոգին. այսօր վերածընեսց զազգս ամենայն, ջրոյ  
կենդանոյ բըղխեալ յերուսաղէմ. ըզնա օրհնեսցուք  
երկըրպագելով:*



## FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

#### The Seven Sacraments of the Church

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Penance
4. Holy Communion
5. Matrimony
6. Holy Orders

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