



Feast of Pentecost

June 5, 2022

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Often called the birthday of the church, this Feast reminds us, again, of God's constant power and presence in our lives, in our church, and in our world, through the Holy Spirit. It is the day the Apostles burst forth from the Upper Room to proclaim the Gospel to all who would listen.

For many Catholics today, the church has become much like the Upper Room — full of faithful people, but who have locked themselves inside for fear of a hostile and difficult world. Like the apostles, we too must trust in the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our fears and anxieties and to throw open the doors of our churches.

All of us know people who would benefit from encountering the risen Lord and experiencing the peace, joy, and purpose that a relationship with Christ brings. However, it can be intimidating to try to reach out and start a conversation about God, or invite friends and family members to an event at our parish.

Therefore, today, I invite you to join our invitation challenge. This four-session e-mail and video series helps you discover the process of effectively inviting someone you know to a parish evangelization program. It will also help you to be confident in sharing your faith with others.

The Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action (CCC 2670). It is fitting, then, that we begin this process on the Feast of Pentecost. This is day when the Apostles were empowered with the Holy Spirit, giving birth to the church and sending her on the mission to proclaim Christ to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8, Acts 2).

While we will focus on how to invite, invoke, intercede, and invest we can take comfort knowing that the Holy Spirit, the principal agent of evangelization, aides us in each of these works and gives us all the graces we need to act courageously.

Please click the link below to join us in this wonderful opportunity to grow as disciples.

<https://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/invite>

Sincerely in Christ,

† Brian Joseph Dunn
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth