

A Mission Church

“Go... Teach... Baptize...”

sent them into the world. And I consecrated myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.” (Jn. 17: 17-19).

BAPTIZED...

...therefore, **HOLY**,
...therefore, **SANCTIFIED**,
...therefore, **PERFECTED**,
...therefore, **CONSECRATED**,
...therefore, **COMMISSIONED**,
...therefore, **CALLED**,
...therefore, **GIFTED**,
...therefore, **SENT**.
...therefore, **CAPABLE**.

To deny any of the above is to deny the effects of baptism.



And, again, he affirmed his disciples with the promise in which we now share.

“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.” (Jn. 16:12-13)

A MISSION CHURCH

The Mission Church goes into the

BAPTIZED...

...therefore, **SHARER IN GOD’S LIFE**,
...therefore, **PART OF CHRIST’S BODY**,
...therefore, **MEMBER OF CHURCH**,
...therefore, **BEARER OF THE SPIRIT**,
...therefore, **SHARE IN GOD’S UNITY**.

To deny any of the above is to deny the very Spirit of God, and the ability of the Holy Spirit to overcome our human limitations, as well as deny the purpose of Christ’s death and resurrection.

BUT WE KNOW BETTER

We know better because the Spirit has brought the life of our God to us.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.”
(Jn. 14:16-17).

We know from St. John’s gospel that Jesus prayed for us to be **CONSECRATED** to the truth.
“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I

world armed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit – Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (Right Judgment), Courage (Fortitude), Piety (Holiness), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe in the presence of God).

Where are these found?

We need only to look in a few places, but it all hinges on our disposition: 1) Scripture; 2) the Church; 3) our seeking **CONSECRATION**, that is, our seeking to be changed – changed into the presence of Christ in the world, into the truth of God’s Word, into the power of the Spirit which affects change in others.

BAPTIZED...

...therefore, **CALLED**,
...to **EVANGELIZE**,
...to **SPEAK THE TRUTH**,
...to **CHANGE THE WORLD**,
...to **ANNOUNCE THE KINGDOM**,
...to **PROCLAIM HIS LOVE**,
...to **BRING OTHERS TO GOD**.

It is ours today, as it was for the Apostles and disciples, as it has been – handed down by believers from generation to generation – all those who form the

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Church, the Body of Christ. Those who have gone before us in faith continue their work through their prayerful intercession, while we on earth continue the work of our Lord and Savior.

PENTECOST, 2010

How good it is to know that the words Jesus spoke to his followers before he ascended to glory remain valid for us today.

"And know that I am with you until the end of time." (Mt. 28:20)

And how good it is, that we can hold to the Word of Jesus as truth. It enables us to believe that the power that is of Christ, given to the early Church, remains as a gift to us so we may continue our Lord's work on earth.

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the ritual for the sacrament of Confirmation, the words are: *"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."* Wow!

BE SEALED...

...therefore, know the fullness of the Holy Spirit,
...therefore, affirm the life you received at baptism,
...therefore, live all that has been given you.

"Come. Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love."

THE MISSION CHURCH AND THE CALL TO EVANGELIZATION

We lack nothing except our own willingness to accept the power and the gifts of God, won for us by Christ, and brought to us through the love of God, the Holy Spirit — to do, to go forth.

As **A MISSION CHURCH**, we only need to consecrate our lives in oneness with the love of God, free ourselves of the love for this world, and have a vision of a **NEW PENTECOST** that begins when we join with the Spirit and breathe new life into the Church.

FROM A TREATISE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT BY SAINT BASIL THE GREAT, BISHOP

The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them, and make him realize that they speak of nothing less than the supreme Being. Is he not called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit? But his principal and most personal title is the Holy Spirit.

To the Spirit all creatures turn in their need for sanctification; all living things seek him according to their ability. His breath empowers each to achieve its own natural end.

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but he gives himself only to those who are worth, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self-giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet us present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with himself.

As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance. So also the souls in whom the Spirit dwells, and who are enlightened by the Spirit, become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we are admitted to the company of the angels, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire likeness to God, indeed we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations — we become God.

