

PROCLAIM

A magazine for Missionary Animation

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(1) **Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith** creates missionary awareness among the laity and establishes a Programme for regular aid to Mission territories.

(2) **Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle** awakens adults and youth to the problem of training of local clergy, men and women religious, and catechists in Mission Churches.

(3) **Pontifical Society of the Missionary Childhood** promotes missionary zeal among children so as to lead them to a sharing of spiritual and material resources with other children.

(4) **Pontifical Missionary Union of Priests and Religious** animates missionary commitment in Priests, men and women Religious, candidates to the priestly and religious life, as well as others engaged in the pastoral ministry of the Church.



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**“God’s Spirit is in my heart
He has called me and set me apart...
This is what I have to do... what I have to do!”**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

PENTECOST

It's time we were transformed!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Pentecost is the incident of filling with the Spirit of God. When the Spirit of God fills our hearts and minds, He transforms us. Just imagine how the timid, shivering Apostles behind the closed doors became courageous, ready to speak about Jesus whom they disowned and had decided not to reveal that they were associated with him. The disciples who were not convinced of the Gospel preached by Jesus now proclaim the same from the top of their voice.

Holy Spirit, the constant companion of the disciple of Christ, is a Spirit of power and knowledge. He is a counselor who enlightens the minds of those who believe. He strengthens everyone to condemn the evil and uphold the truth. The Spirit-filled disciples challenged the religious elders and the political leaders and said "That Jesus whom you crucified is risen and we have seen him". Hence the disciples declare that when they have Jesus, nothing can harm them. Mother Teresa said, *"There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."*

Are we filled with the Holy Spirit? How come that we are still so timid to condemn evil and uphold the truth? Many people question the Christian faith - why are we dumb? Scams after scams happening - why can't we take a stand against them? The rich enjoy and waste the wealth of the world, while millions of poor go hungry for days together - how is it that we don't raise our voice? The natural resources like water, soil are indiscriminately degraded, wasted, misused - why are we keeping quiet? Rampant increase in cases of rape, honour-killing, moral policing by misguided elements taking place - are we able to proclaim the good news at the top of our voice? Why are we being mere onlookers when a person is suffering after an accident? Where is our moral religious conscience that empowers us to come to the aid of a victim of injustice?

Are we filled with the Holy Spirit? Has Pentecost taken place in our lives? If yes, how is it that there is no transformation? How is it that we remain the same timid, disinterested Christians devoid of all values? A true Christian is the one who can love the one in need. Mother Teresa insisted *"When a poor person dies of hunger it has not happened because God did not take care of him/her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give the person what he/she needed."* It is because I fail to love the neighbor, a person is dying. I am the keeper of my brother/sister. God takes care of the needy through a loving neighbour.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, you and I shall be the loving neighbour of the suffering brother and sister.

Fr Faustine L Lobo
National Director, PMO (India)