

**May 15, 2016 The Director Homily:** Brothers and sisters, some of you may enjoy viewing the annual Academy Award ceremony. It is an event that draws millions of viewers worldwide, and for obvious reasons! Movies are widely popular in the public imagination. You may recall that the Oscar winning actors and actresses are called upon to offer an acceptance speech. In a spirit of genuine humility, the winners often choose to belittle their accomplishments and give credit to others. In other words, they give credit where credit is justly deserved.

One person often singled out for praise is the filmmaker himself, who is the director of the production. One can not overestimate the importance of the director. His vision of how the film should be made is critical in determining the film's success or failure. He casts the actors in the most important roles, coordinates the filming schedule and plays an indispensable role in bringing out the very best performances in the members of the cast. He is the unsung hero and the film's inspiration! The director seldom appears in front of the camera. Throughout the course of the filming, he remains in the shadows. His public persona is often negligible. Rarely is he (or she) considered a celebrity. But the director's role is pivotal. He is irreplaceable!

Pentecost (fifty days after Easter) is the feast day of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life. Like the anonymous director making a film for the viewing audience, the Holy Spirit remains in the shadows. In addition, He never speaks for Himself. Throughout salvation history, He speaks through human agents, especially the prophets. Where Christ makes God visible, the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is invisible and always remains so. Yet his mysterious presence is unmistakable. And the impact of the Spirit's power is clear and pervasive. The words of the Apostle's creed come to mind. "He (Jesus Christ) was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit".

Recall the episode recorded in today's gospel (Jn.20:19-23). On Easter Sunday night the disciples are behind locked doors. Their lives have been endangered because of the events of Holy Week. In a state of panic, they encounter the Risen Christ, who breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". Upon receiving the Gift, the disciples of Jesus were then emboldened to preach the gospel of the crucified and Risen Christ without fear. Sinners were transformed into saints, timid men into courageous witnesses!

The noted author and professor of philosophy at Boston College, Peter Kreeft, refers to the Holy Spirit as the Church's power source. The Church's vitality depends, to a large extent, on the Spirit. Without the Spirit, the Church loses her soul and becomes lifeless.

Now, if you should ever be invited to give thanks for a job well done, please remember the Holy Spirit, Indeed, most of the credit belongs to Him. Like the talented film director, The Holy Spirit is pleased to sanctify us, and bring out the very best of our potential to be worthy disciples of Christ and successful in all our efforts to make the Kingdom of Heaven real for all peoples.

Amen!