PASTORAL LETTER – MAY 2020

Dear friend,

Throughout all of Christendom, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It is a Sunday that observes the manifestation of Holy Spirit in the lives of the early believers, filling them with the energy to deal with life. More than ever, we need a divine source of energy to help us deal with the debilitating issues revolving around the virus and the race-fueled tensions and riots involving the death of an African American man as a result of excessive police force.

We are dealing with problems that are not easy to resolve, but the Pentecost biblical story provides us with hope, and with a way of dealing with the tensions and problems that we face. I sincerely hope that the Pentecost story helps you see fresh solutions to our old, personal and societal challenges. Here is a link to today's service: https://youtu.be/5oNvFmdZiz4

Also, in my sermon's opening remarks, I reference a movie, *The Apostle*, that gives us a glimpse of how some Christian faith traditions preserve the memory of the Pentecost experience by holding worship in an animated manner. The scene captures Robert Duvall as Pastor Sonny, a Pentecostal Pastor, involved in a boisterous worship service which is reminiscent of the frenzied atmosphere in the upper room chamber of the Book of Acts. Here is a link to that scene: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSdjQpaZcbw

Lastly, in an effort to give us a more thoughtful look at the Pentecost story, Dr. Bruce Chilton of Bard College will be leading us in a four-part series. Here is a link to the opening lecture: https://youtu.be/4R53Sik2EUc

You can also find it on the Learning page of our website, along with two handouts that will allow us to maximize the lecture and our time of biblical study. Those files are *Season of the Holy Spirit* and *Insight of Action*.

Have a blessed Pentecost Sunday!
Pastor Luis