



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

June 5, 2022

“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (*Romans 5:5*) These words of Saint Paul join together and inseparably link the virtue of hope & the Holy Spirit. As I reflect and write this pastoral letter for our parish family, I find myself focused on both the Holy Spirit & the Christian virtue of hope. I find myself concentrated on the Holy Spirit mainly because of the great celebration of Pentecost this Sunday in the Church’s calendar. Pentecost is all about the Holy Spirit! It is the day when we remember and relive through the liturgy the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the nascent Church. Each year, this celebration fills us with joy and reminds us that we have been *clothed with power from on high* just as the Lord Jesus promised. (See *Acts 1:8*) Along with this focus on the Holy Spirit, I find myself considering, even clinging to the virtue of hope because of the very sudden & recent death of our good friend and faithful priest Father Mick Lambeth. Father Mick has meant so much to us here at the parish of Saint Theresa and to me personally during the past four years of my time at our parish. My heart truly grieves at the loss of him from our lives. As I grieve, I also recall the words of Saint Paul exhorting the community of believers ‘not to grieve like those who have no hope.’ (See *1 Thessalonians 4:13*) As Christians, we have been given hope... *hope that does not disappoint*. Our hope is that Father Mick Lambeth is now with the Lord in the fullness of His Kingdom in Heaven. My dear friends, as we give thanks to God for the gift of Father Mick’s life and ministry, and as we celebrate *Pentecost* with the universal Church, may we all truly know and experience *the hope and love of God that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*.

**“Veni Sancte Spiritus!”**

Easter Blessings,

Father John Large