Pentecost Sunday

Hello. This is Bishop John LeVoir with a reflection for Pentecost Sunday.

At various points in the Sequence for Pentecost, we read: “Come, Holy Spirit, come! You, the soul's most welcome guest; Heal our wounds, our strength renew.”

Who is the Holy Spirit? *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that the Holy Spirit is: “The third divine Person of the Blessed Trinity, the personal love of Father and Son for each other. Also called the Paraclete (Advocate) and Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the divine plan for our salvation.”

So, the Holy Spirit is God, he is divine. As we profess in the Nicene Creed: “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.” In other words, the Holy Spirit isn’t less than God, but is God. This means that he helps us with the power, wisdom, and love of God.

And so, we plead with God the Holy Spirit to come and to dwell within our souls. We plead with the Holy Spirit to unite himself to us in a holy bond of love. As God, he is the soul’s most welcome guest.

What does this Guest do for us? He does many things. But two of the things that he does for us are to heal our wounds and renew our strength. These two effects of the Holy Spirit upon us have been stressed repeatedly by Pope Francis.

All of us have wounds: physical, psychological, spiritual, and emotional that need healing. As the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* says, the Holy Spirit is like “sweet anointing from above.” This anointing brings healing.

When the Holy Spirit dwells within us, he brings refreshment and strength as well. In the words of the Sequence: “Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. Give them your salvation, Lord.” Yes, Come, Holy Spirit, come!