THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD HAS FILLED THE WHOLE WORLD
AND
THAT WHICH CONTAINS ALL THINGS UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS SAID

—Wisdom 1:7—

On Pentecost the followers of Jesus were quietly gathered in one place together. They had seen and spoken with the Risen Christ but remained afraid and uncertain. But through the magnificent power of the Holy Spirit they were somehow transformed and began to communicate in ways that foreigners in Jerusalem could understand (Acts 2:1–11).

As far as we know, Jesus never taught his followers any foreign languages. Rather, He taught about the eternal presence and love of God through His actions, by the stories He told, the parables He shared, and the miracles He worked. Could it be, might it be, that the miracle of Pentecost is not that the Spirit of God gave His followers the ability to speak in foreign words but rather the Spirit gave the followers of Jesus the courage to speak in the universal language of a warm embrace, a gentle smile, a shared enthusiasm, and unconditional acceptance? These are words that every person, then and now, can understand and share.

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Bob Kelly, OP

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