



May 19, 2024

House Circular #16
Subject: Pentecost

“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:2-4)

Dear Sisters and Associates,

What must have the people felt when they experienced the violent wind and saw the tongues of fire descend on each person? We know what violent winds are like through the storms we experience. It can be an unnerving feeling. The people gathered on that first Pentecost had their lives changed forever.

A violent wind can be scary, but it does get our attention in a way that a gentle breeze does not. A gentle breeze feels good while a violent wind may make us cold or even blow obstacles in our way. Which one does God use to get our attention? Do we need to have the violent winds put an obstacle in our way in order to get us to change course? Is God asking us to change course and open ourselves to something new in our personal lives?

And what about the tongues of fire? Acts says that “all were filled with the Holy Spirit.” This means that each one of us has been gifted with the Holy Spirit, and our charge is to recognize the Spirit in ourselves and in each other. In a conversation, do we recognize the gift that the other person is sharing with us?

The liturgical season of Easter is drawing to a close, but only on paper. We are called to be Easter people every day, sharing the gifts of Easter and Pentecost with everyone we meet. Let us be attentive to the Spirit present in each one of us.

In St. Francis and St. Clare,

Sister Janice Schneider, OSF
Assistant Superior