

Worthy Sir Knights,

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles not as a gentle breeze, but as ‘tongues of fire.’ That image is no accident. Fire transforms everything it touches — and the fire of the Holy Spirit transforms the human heart from the inside out, setting it ablaze with the greatest of all virtues: charity.

St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13 that without charity, even the most heroic deeds amount to nothing. A man may give away all he owns, may speak with the eloquence of angels — but if charity is absent, it is empty noise. Charity is not merely generosity. It is love ordered rightly toward God and neighbor — the very love God pours into our hearts through His Spirit.

This is precisely what Pentecost unleashed. The same men who had hidden behind locked doors in fear were suddenly emboldened to pour themselves out for others. That transformation was not self-improvement — it was the fire of divine charity landing on ordinary men and making them extraordinary servants.

As Knights, every act of service — every food drive, every ultrasound initiative, every vigil for the vulnerable — is a participation in that same Pentecost fire. The question worth sitting with is not whether we serve, but why we serve. Are those acts rooted in true charity — love of God expressed through love of neighbor — or have they become routine?

The Spirit is not routine. He is fire.

Vivat Jesus!

In Christ,

Fr. PJ Brandimarti

Pastor

Church of the Ascension, Johnstown