



Pentecost

When I was a child, I had a very good catechist priest. He wanted to explain to us the mystery of the Holy Spirit: what it is; how it works. To our delight, he arrived with a football, so we thought he was going to take us outside to play together. But the ball was actually a prop to help us understand the person of the Holy Spirit.

The ball was not inflated, so it was really useless. I remember that one after another we asked him to inflate it, because without air it was useless. He took out the pump, filled it with air and after a moment, the ball was beautiful and ready to use. Our faces lit up with joy.

The priest explained to us that the Holy Spirit is like the air that filled the ball. No one can see it, but we know perfectly well that it is with us. It IS! Without air, the ball is just flat. It is not itself. The air hidden inside gives its shape. And once filled, it becomes beautiful and can fulfil its purpose.

This ball is like the community of the Church, filled with the Holy Spirit. It makes the Church shine with its spiritual splendour and hidden beauty, enabling it to serve others.

The ball is made up of many patches sewn together. Each patch is different. One is beautiful and shiny; another is marked by many kicks; another is dirty; another has the signature of a football star on it. However, each is important and necessary. But each one is important and necessary. Each has its own history. Together they form a Community: the Church.

Our communities of Faith and Light are part of the community of the Church. They are a reflection of it. In them, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we discover our beauty and our wounds. In the communities and in the Church, we learn joy, celebration, forgiveness and faithful presence. And all this is made possible thanks to the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit.

All the patches create one ball. When we look closer, we will discover that they are sewn together with a hidden thread. It connects them and unites them. This thread is a bond of love, which is supported and built from the inside by the Holy Spirit. Thanks to Its presence, which unites us, the Church becomes more than just a group of people gathered together, it becomes a communion.

Thanks to the Holy Spirit, the Faith and Light communities are a place for building mutual relationships, bonds and friendships. The inflated ball becomes flexible, ready for use. In the same way, the Holy Spirit also makes us flexible. It opens us up to the brothers and sisters we meet. It teaches us to listen to one another. It softens what is rigid in us. It breaks down what is hard and rigid in us.

It also leads us to places and situations we never imagined or dreamed of. The Holy Spirit is also what led us one day to the Faith and Light communities. To my community, to the community of the Church. It is there that it shapes us and makes us friends of God and of our neighbours.

And for that, may God be glorified.

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