

"Receive the Holy Spirit"

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Prelude:)

Christ lived and died to save humankind. He gave us his church with its wonderful sacraments & the Mass to help us reach the goal of salvation. Today, on Pentecost, we celebrate his gift of the Holy Spirit, who came to protect and fortify that church throughout the centuries. The church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is made up of individuals, such as you and me. If we are ever to reach salvation and ultimate bliss, we must work together, as His body, respecting each and every member. I will now share with you, on this Pentecost eve/morning, a story to remind us of the value of each member, for whom Christ died.

(THE CRACKED POT)

Once upon a time, there was an elderly Chinese woman who had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her the back of her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years, this went on daily, with the woman bringing home one & a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor, cracked-pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and was miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream:

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled:

"Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path and every day, while we walk back, you water them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace my house."

*Each of us has our own, unique flaw/s. **BUT**, not to be confused with sin, it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.*

We've just got to take each person for who he/she is and look for the good in him/her! (Repeat)

SO... to all of my crack-pot friends -of the Mystical Body of Christ- have a wonderful day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

May Almighty God, our dear Abba, bless you...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.