

We love to gossip, do we not? We hear a juicy tid bit of information and it is hard to keep it to yourself. For good or for bad, we like to share information that we learn. It is almost built into our DNA. But oftentimes the information that we share is inaccurate or not even our information to share (that would be the bad part). Sometimes we share information as a prayer request (that is the good part). But even those “good parts” can be bad when your motives are not right.

In a way, information is power. Have you ever shared what you thought was a juicy tid bit of news only to discover the person already knew? There is almost a sense of disappointment for not being the one to break the news. But what sinners fail to realize is that not all news is meant to be shared. On the flip side of that, as sinners, we often fail to share the news we ought to be sharing, largely because of the anticipated rejection from people or you just do not believe the news is that “juicy”.

This past Sunday was Pentecost, what many call the birth of the Church. It is the moment when the Holy Spirit burst onto the scene and filled those first disciples (now called apostles) with knowledge of the truth of Jesus. They went around, preaching and teaching the Good News. And it was good news indeed. Actually, it was and is the best news of all. It is not gossip or misinformation. It is not some rumor or story. The Good News is the truth that you are a sinner, but through the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is forgiveness of sins and thus the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

And since this is the BEST NEWS of all, why are so many hesitant to share it? We gossip inappropriate news without even thinking about it but hesitate to share news that could save someone’s eternal life. Seems a little backwards, but let us switch this back around and “gossip” the Good News with people. As you are chatting people up at the coffee shop, in the grocery store, in the parking lot or wherever, see to it that Jesus enters the conversation somewhere, for example, *“Is there anything I can be holding in prayer for you?”* You might be surprised by what people will say. Or you could say (if you know them to be a Christian), *“How is your walk with Jesus been going recently?”* Once again, and depending on the person, you might be surprised by what you hear.

The short of it is this, Pentecost gives you permission to “gossip” and it gives you the news to share. But Pentecost also gives you a Helper in your dealings

with others, so hopefully that takes your fear away. We have the News, so let us spread the word and the Word with help from the Helper (Holy Spirit). Amen.