St Joseph's celebrates Pentecost

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Photos by Frank Taylor

Pam Canham, recipient of the 2013 Liber mann Award.
Don’t resist the Holy Spirit

Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit pushes people and the Church forward, but we resist this and do not want to change.

The Holy Spirit upsets us because it moves us, it makes us walk, it pushes the Church forward. (But) we wish to calm down the Holy Spirit, we want to tame it and this is wrong.

The Holy Spirit is the strength of God, the strength to go forward, but many find this upsetting and prefer the comfort of the familiar.

Nowadays, everybody seems happy about the presence of the Holy Spirit, but it’s not really the case and there still is that temptation to resist it.

The Second Vatican Council was a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit, but (50 years later) have we done everything the Holy Spirit was asking us to do during the Council? The answer is ‘No.’ We celebrate this anniversary; we put up a monument, but we don’t want it to upset us. We don’t want to change and what’s more there are those who wish to turn the clock back. This is stubbornness and wanting to tame the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit pushes us to take a more evangelical path, but we resist this. Submit to the Holy Spirit, which comes from within us and makes us go forward along the path of holiness.

Homily at Mass, April 16, 2013