

**Final Profession of Sister Florence Suimin OSA, Boarbank Hall,**

**Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Homily**



*There is a variety of gifts/charisms, but always the same Spirit* – so the apostle Paul teaches the Corinthian Church. Two thousand years later the same Holy Spirit still energises the Church through his array of different gifts, given for the purpose of witnessing to Jesus as Son of God and saviour of the world, and for building up his body, the Church. Let each of us today rejoice and give thanks for the charisms we have been given from the Spirit.

Sister Florence, by offering yourself to the Lord today through final religious profession, you are responding to a particular gift of grace, to a charism from the Holy Spirit, given to you for your own personal sanctification and for the benefit of the whole Church. Congratulations on responding so generously to Christ's call to follow him as an Augustinian sister, though as St. Augustine himself would remind us, we first need God's grace to respond to God's grace!

By your profession of vows today you are witnessing eloquently to the primacy of charity, for your life as a religious will be in the service of others, especially the sick, the frail, and those burdened in any way. A ministry of this kind, we are told, is a ministry offered to the Master himself. You will have been taught, Sister Florence, of the importance of the community as an Augustinian sister, and the central place of the common life. St. Augustine notes in his rule that when we put the interests of others first, then we can be sure that we are making progress in the spiritual life. A religious community is a powerful witness to the ideal of the Christian life, and your contribution to that cannot be underestimated.

On this solemnity of Pentecost, Sister Florence, the Church rejoices with you and the Boarbank community that the power of the Holy Spirit has come to fruition for you in this act of final profession. There may not be a mighty wind today or tongues of fire, but the Spirit has indeed blown, and that tongue of fire has burned deep within you, enabling you to take this step. Thank you, and may the Risen Lord continue to breathe his Spirit upon you, making you a witness to his peace and his love in the Church and in the world. Amen.

+Michael G Campbell OSA  
Bishop of Lancaster