

LOVING EACH OTHER AS ONE BODY OF CHRIST



I am a cheerleader for the Holy Spirit.

Four years ago my bible study focused on the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. From these studies and our faith sharing, and because I was in the right place, I was able to appreciate the Holy Spirit more in six weeks than I had in many decades. It was after those six weeks that I became an ardent fan of the Holy Spirit.

In the first reading we hear that the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. Refueled and on fire they began to speak in different tongues. The Holy Spirit may not have given us the gift to speak in different tongues but we were given other gifts, one appropriate to our time and our place and our need.

In Corinthians Paul writes that though there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, there is the same Spirit. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To this I add: God does not make mistakes.

While we people of faith must be united in our central mission to build the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth, the Holy Spirit has given each of us an appropriate tool (gift) for this construction project because building the kingdom of God requires more than the same tool. Together we are one community though we each bring – and share – our individual gifts. These gifts are the tools we use as we build the kingdom of God.

Filled with the Holy Spirit our hearts ablaze and as people of faith now on fire we are moved to respond in different ways and to different issues but always in the service of the Lord. We are instructed not to judge our brothers and sisters because they are Jews or Greeks, man or woman, called by the Spirit to focus on protecting nascent life or protecting the poor. No, we are called to recognize that we are one body with many parts. We must come to love and appreciate our many parts.

Accepting the differences, the different gifts, of each other is not easy. Fortunately Jesus left us with the perfect tool – His gift of peace. When we are at peace with ourselves we can then share this gift with each other. We can recognize, tolerate and eventually accept the differences among us and the different paths we take, guided by the Holy Spirit who has bestowed upon each of us just the right gift.

We can come to love each other.

(Readings for Pentecost Sunday)



Office of Life, Justice, and Peace