

July 14, 2019

### TIME FOR CHANGE, TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT!

Time for change, time for Holy Spirit! Three weeks ago, I wrote to you about "TIME FOR CHANGE". Last week, I wrote about "TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT" as the entrance of our church was transformed through a beautiful stained glass window of the HOLY SPIRIT just above the baptistry: a gift to our parish in memory of two of our beloved, deceased parishioners, truly a loving GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. In the last three weeks, many changes have taken place at our parish, and we all need more than ever the presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts!

I have told many of you that as a priest, I have never felt so close to the Holy Spirit. Despite health difficulties and parish challenges, I have never been so much at peace. GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME.. ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD! God never gives us challenges that we cannot handle. He sends us the Holy Spirit to take charge of our daily lives!

We just have to cooperate with GOD. What does this cooperation mean? I used to think that it means that we have to undertake good deeds, to take on a special project of our own and please God! I have come to understand that this is not what God wants. He simply wants us to DESIRE TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT, as opposed to desire that we keep control of our own lives. We are not in charge. GOD IS IN CHARGE. This desire to change is not simple. It is not easy to do so.

We are human beings prone to sin since the Fall of Adam and Eve. It is human to think about ourselves and not others. We see the world with our own eyes. As St. Augustine said so well, and I paraphrase: we sin when we keep looking at ourselves, as opposed to look up, to look up to GOD!

Earlier this week at daily Mass on Tuesday July 9, people brought to Jesus a "demoniac" who could not speak (Matthew 9: 32-38). What did Jesus do? He drove the demon out of the mute man... and the mute man spoke: The crowds were amazed and said: "nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel". As Christians, we believe that JESUS was sent by the FATHER to redeem us, to heal us. As humans, we are

all sick. Today, through the HOLY SPIRIT Jesus is still healing the sick! Jesus is the HEALER: physical, emotional, spiritual HEALER!

Our greatest illness is spiritual. We believe that our souls never die. God is the only one who can help us to heal our souls. Like the demoniac in Matthew's Gospel, we are at times " deaf and mute" , meaning that at times we are no longer listening to GOD'S WORD, and we are unable to proclaim the GOOD NEWS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST to those we encounter in our daily lives. We may even at time reject HIS WORD and be totally consumed by our human desires and personal ambitions.

I know that it is only when I entered St John XXIII National Seminary in Boston in 2005 that I truly desired to commit my entire life to serving Our Lord JESUS CHRIST by serving HIS PEOPLE. Before entering the seminary, I attended Mass every Sunday, but this did not mean that my daily week was committed to GOD.

God invites all of us today, including myself, to re-examine how we put in practice our Christian Faith. Are we able to see Christ in everyone we encounter? Do people see Christ in us? Do we pray to the Holy Spirit? Are we OPEN to let the Holy Spirit to take charge of our lives? Are we aware that within our own hearts there is a constant battle between the good and evil, in the same way there is a constant battle between GOD and the DEVIL at the cosmic level? ONLY by opening our hearts to the HOLY SPIRIT can we win this interior battle one day at a time.

**COME HOLY SPIRIT! TAKE CHARGE OF OUR LIVES! KEEP GUIDING ALL OUR STEPS!**



*One in Christ,  
Father Alain*