

Sponsor Meeting #3

Due by: 2/21/2021

Confirmandi are asked to meet with their sponsors regularly throughout the preparation process to discuss the faith and in order that they might be more aware of what God is doing throughout the process.

--- BEGIN WITH PRAYER ---

Read each passage twice together and discuss using the questions below. Keeping in mind that the Word of God is "living and effective"- the actual voice of God reaching out to you to speak into your life, think about why that word/phrase is standing out. How is God speaking to you in the circumstances of life?

[Jesus said]: "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

"I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."- John 16:7-15

"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."- Acts 8:14-17

Questions to discuss together - You'll share some of your discussion on the following page

- What does this passage reveal to you about the Holy Spirit?
- What does it mean when Jesus says that it is to our advantage that he goes away so we can receive the Holy Spirit?
- Why did the apostles need to lay hands on the Samaritans who had been baptized? What does it mean that they received the Holy Spirit?

--- LESSON REVIEW: CONFIRMATION ---

Discuss the following questions with your sponsor. With each question talk not only about the answers to the questions taught in the lesson, but also about if you buy into that answer or if you struggle with what was taught. Formulate questions for the priest or Thomas if you come up against a roadblock.

- Why has the Church established the sacrament of Confirmation? What does it do? Why is it necessary?
- What are the effects of the sacrament? What will happen to you when you are confirmed?
- How can you prepare yourself to fully receive the grace of the sacrament?
- What all happens during the sacrament? What are all the signs, gestures, etc.? What do they all mean?
- What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? When did you initially receive them? What does the sacrament of Confirmation have to do with them? How does it affect them?
- Read over and discuss the sheet on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Discuss how you would use these gifts to think through and act on several real-life situations and current hot button issues.

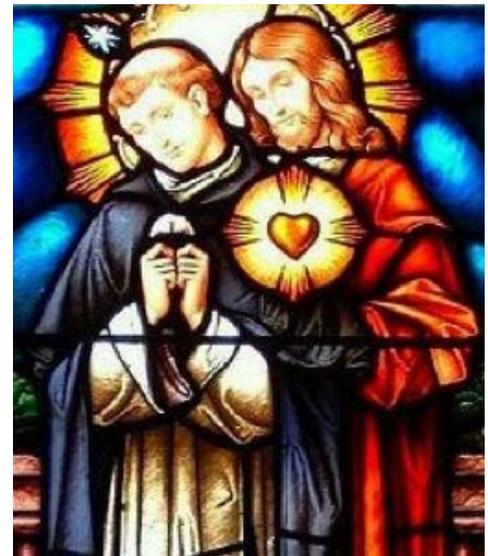
Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(According to Archbishop Luis Martinez from his book "The Sanctifier")

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? *The gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed on us at baptism. Picture it this way: a sailboat is fairly useless without opening its sails. It can't move, but is constantly thrown about on the waters, completely hopeless and at the mercy of the elements. At baptism the sails of our hearts were opened for the wind of the Holy Spirit to guide us towards our ultimate happiness- union with God our Father. We can't do this on our own, but Jesus has given us his very life in order for us to come back to the Father. This is a great grace. As St. Athanasius said: "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." Jesus lived a life of faith, hope, and love. Due to sin, we need supernatural help to live this way as well. We're given the gifts of the Spirit to perfect our minds so we can know the truth and our wills so that we can love what we've come to know. We in a way live Jesus' life (or as the theologians say participate in the divine nature of Christ)! Here is a short summary of the gifts and how they perfect us. It is important to note that we are supposed to grow in these gifts. Take note of how each "level" of the gift makes us look more and more like Christ.*

Gifts perfecting our will

>>>This picture gives us a good image of this category of gifts. Notice how the heart at the center looks like it belongs to both Jesus and the priest. His heart has become one with Jesus. Also notice how the arm of Christ sort of fuses to the priest, so the priest becomes an extension of Jesus himself.



Fear of the Lord

Repugnance at separation from God

Fear of God is, in this context, "filial" or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to "servile" fear, whereby we fear punishment.

Fortitude

The ability to overcome dangers and struggles through various virtues moved by the Holy Spirit

Fortitude denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life.

Piety

Put all of our relationships (God, friends, family) in place, guides them, makes them more perfect and more profound

Piety is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word pietas denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety.

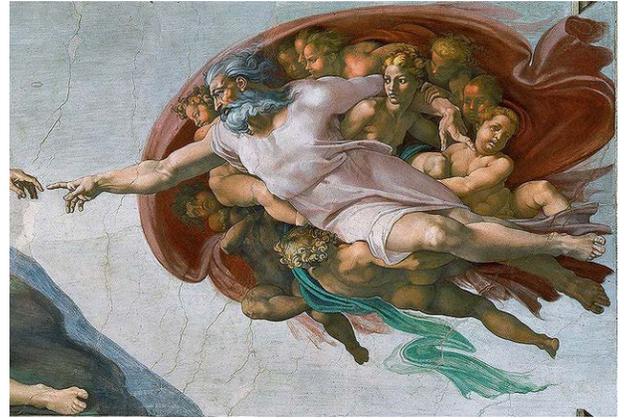
Counsel

Divine prudence, not only rightly-ordered thought about what we should do, but God's rightly-ordered thought

Counsel allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation.

Gifts perfecting our intellect

>>> *Many don't notice that the cape and the angels surrounding Michelangelo's famous depiction of God creating Adam is shaped like a brain. This is supposed to symbolize creation coming forth from the mind of God. It also shows how we're made in His image. This is a good visual for this second type of gift. These gifts are the divine mind reaching out to touch ours so we can think like Him.*



Knowledge

Divine wisdom, theologizing, ability to scrutinize the world (spiritual and material), probe the depths of all phenomena and recognizes what God has/is doing

Knowledge is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice.

Understanding

Ability to ponder and penetrate lofty truths, our soul transforms, gift of meditation (ability to pray)

Understanding is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to “see” God. Each degree of understanding advances like a person climbing a mountain, the higher the degree the more the soul can take in the larger, more beautiful scene.

Wisdom

Divine knowledge, obtained from a deep intimacy with God, experiencing all the things the theologize and talk about and meditate on

Wisdom is both the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.

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Turn-In Sheet

Name

*After each meeting with your sponsor please respond to the questions below and turn this sheet in to the parish.
Please respond in at least 2-3 full sentences for each question.*

What are a few things that you and your sponsor shared or talked about as you went through the scripture passage and questions following?

What is something you learned about your sponsor or something that your sponsor said that helped you see your faith a little differently?

Which Gifts of the Holy Spirit did you and your sponsor speak about the most and what sorts of conversation did you have about them?

What Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you desire more of? Why?

Do you have any other questions or final thoughts that you would like to share with us?