

*CCE classes* meet this week (Feb 9, 11, 12) with Big Idea 3.

**Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** By Ginger Herrington



**Reading 1: *Light shall rise for you in your darkness.*** Isaiah lists the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the blessings we receive: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1) Your light will break forth like the dawn: you shall be blessed with Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, and Knowledge. **Wisdom** is the highest of the gifts which helps us to value the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God rather than worshipping the earth. The gift of **Understanding** grants us certainty in the Truths about God which goes beyond faith. God's gift of **Counsel** guides our actions almost by intuition as the Holy Spirit acts in us. **Knowledge** allows us to see, within our limitations, God's Will for us. (2) Your wound will quickly be healed through the Spirit's gift of **Piety**, where we worship and serve God out of love (not out of fear). As we love God more and more, the Divine Healer fills our hearts with His love. (3) Your vindication shall go before you as God grants you **Fear of the Lord**. This gift fills us with the desire to avoid sin and with the certainty that God guides our hearts and actions. (4) The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard – just as the Lord protected Israel in the Exodus. This is also the gift of **Fortitude**: the courage to defend the Faith. (5) You shall call and the Lord will answer – by doing the Works of Mercy, you work God's Will in this world; whatever you ask in Jesus' Name, then, conforms with His Will, and He will grant your petitions. Keep working on your Discipleship Project. Follow Jesus in the Works of Mercy.

**Reading 2: *My message is of God's Spirit and power.*** St. Paul tells the Corinthians that he speaks the Gospel, the truth about Jesus Christ. Paul admits that by himself, he could not do anything. Let's follow his example of humility and admit that apart from God, we can do nothing; but with God, all things are possible. St. Paul preaches **Christ, and Him crucified**. Paul never forgets the Cross. We should remember that those who follow Jesus are fed, healed, and taught, but we also share in His suffering and death – death to sin, death to the temptations of this world as we fix our eyes on the world to come: Heaven. St. Paul drives home the message to the Corinthians: build your faith on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This is why we profess that the **Church** is holy, even though not every member of the Church is holy. Our Church was founded by Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit according to the Will of the Father. Our faith should rest on those foundations.

**Gospel: *Jesus said: you are the light of the world.*** Jesus teaches that as we do the works of the Father, we shine for all the world to see. Our acts of mercy, kindness, love, and compassion attract people to the Church. The pagans in the first century exclaimed about this outstanding mark of the first Christian communities: **see how they love!** By doing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, you attract people to the Catholic Church. Let people see how well you can love as you conform yourself to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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