

COME HOLY SPIRIT, GUIDE ME!

We have just completed the first two weeks of **The Gift: A Life in the Spirit** course. While we still have four weeks to go, I would like to share with you some of my first impressions. First, many of you have responded enthusiastically to our invitation! Over 100 of our parishioners have attended either the Saturday morning or the Tuesday night sessions. We pray that they will continue to come and will not miss the fifth week (the most important one: stay tuned!). We have also benefitted from the assistance of a large number of volunteers (close to 20) from St. Mary's Bryantown Parish, including their pastor, Fr. Conley. We are all inspired by the joy and commitment of those volunteers who wish to share with us the **fire of the love of the Holy Spirit**, which they, in turn, received while attending this same Life in the Spirit course at their own parish last year. Thanks go to our own Deacon Rich who, with OLHOC volunteers, organized the whole event.

At the end of the first week, each participant was invited to share a beautiful **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**:

Come O Holy Spirit,
Beloved of my soul,
I adore You.
Enlighten me, **guide me,**
strengthen me,
and console me.
Tell me what I must do.
Inspire me with
what I must say.

Give me your orders.
I promise to **submit**
myself to You
in all that You ask of me,
and to **accept** all you permit
to happen to me.
Let me only **know**
your will and
do your will. Amen.

Many times, I have spoken to you about the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, whereby one gives oneself totally to Jesus through Mary: The **Totus Tuus** (totally yours) promoted by St. John Paul, II. As I was reflecting on the above Prayer to the Holy Spirit, which was new to me, I thought of it as a prayer of Total Consecration to the **Holy Spirit. My** total submission to the **Holy Spirit**, asking **Him to guide me** in everything: what I must say, what I must do, what I must accept ... in one simple sentence: **Let me only know your will and do your will.** I have often suggested to you to **let the Holy Spirit invade your heart, and let the Holy Spirit take over your will.** God the Father loves all of us so much. The coming of the Holy Spirit on earth is the promise **His Son Jesus** made to us before ascending into Heaven.

It all seems very simple. Yes, we can recite the Prayer to the Holy Spirit with deep devotion. However, this is only the beginning of a life-long process. We cannot do it alone. What is needed first and foremost is to have faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, a faith as strong as Bartimaeus, the blind man in last Sunday's Gospel (Mark 10:46-52). Though he had never met Jesus, he could hear that Jesus of Nazareth was among the crowd passing by him. He had heard about Jesus' miracles and he believed that Jesus could heal him. He shouts twice, "*Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.*" Finally, Jesus hears Bartimaeus' call and asks him to come to him. Then, He asks him, "***What do you want me to do for you?***" This is the question Jesus is asking each one of us today. So how do we respond to him? I asked that question to the children at Sunday Mass and one **4-year old boy** (8:30 am Mass) answered without any hesitation, "**I want to go to heaven!**" I asked the same question to some adult parishioners, and one of the best answers I got was, "**Jesus, give me faith!**"

Let us pray to Jesus for this great gift of faith. Let us pray the Jesus Prayer; "*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have pity on me, a sinner.*" Like Bartimaeus, let us ask Jesus to help us see. Like Bartimaeus, we are all blind. Our blindness is a spiritual blindness caused by our sins. Lord Jesus Christ, help me to see you and the world around me with the eyes of faith. Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are the only way to the Father in Heaven. Lord Jesus, give me the courage and strength to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. Lord Jesus, open my heart to the Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, help me to be **guided by the Holy Spirit** in everything I do! Lord Jesus, help me to be obedient to the Holy Spirit!

May God keep blessing us all!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain