

Ongoing Formation (4)

Reflection on last month's resolution:

Topic Reliance upon the Holy Spirit



To call upon the Holy Spirit everyday, especially at the beginning and end of every important action. To be inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened, and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit. (Padre Pio Centre)

Rule: Prologue

Oh, how happy and blessed are these men and women when they for these things and persevere in doing them, because "the spirit of the Lord will rest upon them: (Isa 11:2) and he will make "his home and dwelling among them"(John 14:23) and they are the sons of the heavenly Father (Matt 5:45) whose works they do and they are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 12:50)

We are spouses, when by the Holy Spirit the faithful soul is united with our Lord Jesus Christ,....

Constitutions: Article 11

Mindful that the Holy Spirit is the source of their vocation and the animator of fraternal life and mission, Secular Franciscans should seek to imitate the faithfulness of Francis to His inspiration. They should listen to the exhortation of the Saint to desire above all things "the Spirit of God at work within them"

Scripture: 1 Cor 12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the

gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another the gift of healing through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognizing spirits; another gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes gifts to different people just as he chooses.

Writings of St Francis:

Unconfirmed Rule of 1221 22:27-31

And let us make a home and dwelling place for Him Who is the Lord God Almighty, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, Who says: Watch, therefore, praying constantly that you may be considered worthy to escape all the evils that are to come and to stand secure before the Son of Man. And when you stand to pray say: Our Father Who are in heaven. And let us adore him with a pure heart, because we should pray always and not lose heart; for the Father seeks such worshippers. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Church documents:

Dominum et vivificantem (18 May 1986)

In our own age, then, we are called anew by the ever ancient and ever new faith of the Church, to draw near to the Holy Spirit as the giver of life. In this we are helped and stimulated by the heritage we share with the Oriental Churches, which have jealously guarded the extraordinary riches of the teachings of the Fathers on the Holy Spirit...

The Holy Spirit was then better seen, through a meditation on the mystery of the Church, as the one points out the ways leading to the union of Christians, indeed as the supreme source of this unity which comes from God himself and to which St Paul gave a particular expression in the words..."The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Points to ponder:

1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your own life and spirituality? How important is that for how you live your life?
2. How do we see the Holy Spirit acting in the Church and in the world, today?

Resolution: For the next month, what is one specific thing that you could try to do in terms of spreading the Gospel?