



July 2020 Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 3

Blessed Father Frederic Fraternity

Moncton, NB

Since we will not meet face-to-face as fraternity until September, we thought it worthwhile to develop another issue of our proposed fraternal newsletter. Hopefully, this helps us stay connected with each other. The theme for this issue is the Holy Spirit.

Why the Focus on the Holy Spirit?

With the shutdown because of COVID-19, our celebration of the feast of Pentecost 2020 was very much limited. Similarly, the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation in our parishes had to be postponed. Consequently, there was not the liturgical opportunity to joyfully reflect on this glorious blessing: the gift of the Holy Spirit to each of us. Clearly, the Spirit of God within is an awesome reality worthy of our reflection.



How Well Do We Know the Holy Spirit?

We often turn our thoughts to the Father, in particular, when we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, that is, the Our Father. As well, in keeping with our Franciscan charism, we are often in dialogue with Jesus, the Son of the Father. But it seems that sometimes we overlook imploring the Holy



Spirit. This leads me to ponder: do we take the Holy Spirit for granted? Are we guilty of overlooking the Holy Spirit within us...and the wonderful gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows upon us... and the fruits of the Holy Spirit that emanate from the gifts of this third person of the Blessed Trinity? Unfortunately, I (Gerry) have to personally admit that in my spiritual journey, I really haven't given the Holy Spirit the attention that s/he deserves.

Some Thoughts from St. Paul Regarding the Holy Spirit

The following are a few excerpts from St. Paul's letter to the Romans for our reflection:


- "...the Spirit which gives life in Christ Jesus has set you free..." (Rm 8:2)
- "...those who live in the Spirit have their minds on spiritual things..." (Rm 8:5)
- "You...live by the Spirit since the Spirit of God has made a home in you." (Rm 8:9)
- "All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons [and daughters] of God..." (Rm 8: 14)
- "... you receive the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out 'Abba, Father!'" (Rm 8:15)
- "The Spirit ... joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God." (Rm 8:16)
- "The Spirit... comes to help us in our weakness... when we do not know how to pray...the Spirit personally makes our petitions for us..." (Rm 8:26)
- "The prayers that the Spirit makes for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God." (Rm 8: 27)

Questions for Dialogue

As a way to foster inter-personal dialogue among members of our fraternity, you are invited to share your thoughts/ideas with your fraternal brothers and sisters regarding the following:

- Mary is sometimes referred to as “the spouse of the Holy Spirit”. Do you see a strong connection between Mary and the Holy Spirit? If so, please describe this connection.
- It has been said that Francis was very docile (i.e. open and responsive) to the Holy Spirit. In what way do you feel that St. Francis exhibited this openness and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prevalent in your spiritual journey? If so, you are invited to share in what ways the Holy Spirit supported/influenced your spiritual growth and development.
- Is there anything else you wish to share about the Holy Spirit?

Special Events and Occasions

<i>Birthday Celebrations for:</i>	<i>Celebrating Profession of:</i>	
Melissa August 1	Gordie June 11, 2000	
Jim August 4	Gerry H. June 22, 1996	
Gerry G. August 6	Louise August 6, 2008	
George September 12	Jim September 12, 2000	

Did You Know?

Members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (the CCCB) have urged Catholics to make Pentecost a feast of Church unity. Regina Archbishop Don Bolen has stated “Among the principal gifts that the Spirit brings is the gift of unity.”

Note: Bolen worked at the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian unity from 2001-2008.

*May the God of hope
bring you such joy and peace in your faith
that the power of the Holy Spirit
will remove all bounds to hope (Rom 15:13)*

