

## **The Seven-fold Gift of the Holy Spirit**

The theme of the Triennial 2009 retreat was the Seven-fold Gift of the Holy Spirit. This is taken from the prayer of the Order where we ask the Lord to "pour out upon us the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit". But what is this gift and where does it come from?

The Junior Daughters spent a great deal of our time learning about the Holy Spirit and developing our relationship with Him. We also learned about each of the seven gifts and how we can use them in our lives. What follows is a meditation about the seven-fold gift. Please take a few minutes to read it and let the Holy Spirit fill you and give you peace.

*Isaiah 11:2 "And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."*

### **The Spirit of Wisdom**

Wisdom is the knowledge and experience we need to make sensible decisions and judgments. Part of wisdom is common sense. It means listening to those who are older than us because they have many lessons to teach. Wisdom also means listening to the voice of the Spirit in our hearts and learning from that Spirit about our faith and how much God loves us.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Wisdom - that my heart's eyes and ears will be open to know your will for me. Thank you, Lord

### **The Spirit of Understanding**

The Gift of Understanding helps us not only to learn about things, but also to know what they mean. It is a way of seeing and thinking that results from faith. Like the Gift of Wisdom, it is a way of seeing with the heart, not just our own intellect. It also helps us live from the heart. We understand how much Jesus loves us, which means we should also then love each other.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Understanding - that I may comprehend your great mysteries and be compassionate. Thank you, Lord

### **The Gift of Counsel**

This Gift of Counsel helps us to make the right choices, ones that are loving and not selfish. It helps us to decide which choice is right, even when there are many confusing possibilities out there. How can we decide what to do? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and He will speak to your heart and guide you through His gift of Counsel.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Counsel - that I will have a discerning spirit to guide me. Thank you, Lord

### **The Gift of Fortitude (Might)**

Even when we know what the right choice is, it is sometimes hard to make that choice and live it out. The Gift of Fortitude gives us the courage to live our faith every day of our lives. The pressure to do things we know are not the best thing for us can be great. That is when we have to ask for the Holy Spirit's Gift of Fortitude, or Might, so that we may be strong and do the right thing.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Fortitude - that I may have the strength to make the right choices every day for you. Thank you, Lord

### **The Gift of Knowledge**

Knowledge is a Gift we receive from the Holy Spirit so that we might know about our faith and about the world. There are times when no one has told us about something but we know it in our hearts. We know that God loves us; we know we are His children; we know that God asks us to follow His will.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Knowledge - that I may know your word and testify to your truth. Thank you, Lord

### **The Gift of Piety (Holiness)**

Piety, or Holiness, is when we are filled with a sense of reverence, or deep devotion and admiration for God. Piety comes from the Latin word meaning "dutiful" so a pious person is someone who shows religious respect. We could have a sense of piety or respect inside the church, like at the altar or when taking Holy Communion, and we could have a sense of piety outside the church by realizing that God loves everyone and we should treat other people with that same love and respect.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Piety - that I may truly admire and respect you and that it will draw others to you. Thank you, Lord

### **The Gift of the Fear of the Lord**

This Gift is not that we are afraid of God. What this means is that we are filled with a sense of wonder or awe at how great God is. Sometimes God works in powerful ways and we call these things miracles. Other times God works in more ordinary ways, like when we look at a beautiful sunset and are filled with a sense of awe at how wonderful God is.

Let us pray: Grant me the Gift of Holy Fear - that the awesome wonders of your creation will be unfolded. Thank you, Lord

### **Prayers for the Seven-Fold Gift of the Holy Spirit**

Bless me with **Knowledge** to know right from wrong, **Fortitude** to stand up and Be strong, **Understanding** to follow God's way, **Piety** to worship and pray, **Counsel** to enlighten and guide me, **Wisdom** to feel your presence beside me, and **Fear of the Lord** to always be awed by the mighty wonders of our God! Amen.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of wisdom and supernatural light, that I may know God, His infinite goodness, power and beauty.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of understanding and shining light, that I may know the mysteries of faith and of heavenly things, but in the true light of Your wisdom filling my mind and heart.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of counsel and brilliant light, that in danger and doubt I may choose what is right and good, and under Your guidance attain a happy end.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of fortitude and comforting light, that I may generously overcome all difficulties in the way of salvation, resisting all temptations, and bearing patiently all the troubles and trials of this life.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of knowledge and discerning light, that I may judge of all things according to their true worth, fight for justice and love as You love.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of godliness and heavenly light which may penetrate my soul with a tender devotion to You and love for Your divine service, and also cause me to find happiness in practicing good works.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of the fear of God and penetrating light, that I may recognize how greatly sin offends Your infinite majesty, and may fear and most carefully avoid all that is displeasing to You.

St. Augustine's Prayer Book

References:

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit by Rev. Jude Winkler

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit by Mitch Finley