

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The fourth part of the Kerygma is: The Holy Spirit in the church is the sign of Christ's present power and glory. As Catholics, we have a hard time relating to this statement. We do not talk about the Holy Spirit and the way that the Spirit works much. We also do not know in our minds, hearts, souls, or life what Christ's present power and glory means. I know that most of these concepts, even more than last week's themes are still somewhat new to me. I am constantly trying to grow in my faith but continual reflecting on the kerygma challenges me to do so more powerfully. Let us do that together now.

We know that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity and the way that Jesus promised we would continue to be connected to Him (and the Father), each other and ourselves by means of the love, message, support and encouragement that only God can provide. Although true in theory, very few of us can identify our experience of the Holy Spirit's presence. In our confirmation, we are supposed to not only come to understand the working of the Holy Spirit but begin to experience that Spirit in a real way. Let us be honest, how many of us has that experience happened to? I do not think too many. I know that I am still striving to experience the Holy Spirit more powerfully. I have not prayed enough for it and I know that I need to do so. This reflection on the Kerygma is challenging me to do so with greater effort.

An important part of this statement we so easily forget though is **IN THE CHURCH**. So much of the Christian understanding and practice in this country has caused us to think of our relationship with God primarily as a me and God encounter. We forget the importance of the Christian community as the prime mediator of the Holy Spirit. The movement of the Holy Spirit within us as a united Christian community helps us to experience the power and glory of Jesus Christ. How often do we gather just to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in our lives? The time of the Second Vatican Council was talked about as a new Pentecost with a fresh outpouring the Holy Spirit. The Charismatic Renewal about the same time put that whole experience into practice for the average lay person powerfully. With many of us never having experienced that outpouring the first time and much of the original fervor being diminished, we can always seek the intervention of the Holy Spirit again. Let me know if anyone is interested.

In Christ's love,

Father Dave Ruby, Pastor