

March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The fourth part of the kerygma is **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH IS THE SIGN OF CHRIST'S PRESENT POWER AND GLORY**. Let us more fully explain it considering this Sunday's scripture readings.

THE HOLY SPIRIT is the third person of the trinity and an extremely important part of our faith. We are mainly taught about the Holy Spirit in confirmation even though the Holy Spirit is a part of every sacrament and everything that we are and all that we do all the time. In the first reading, from the book of **SAMUEL**, we read: *The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.* We should all want the Spirit of the Lord to rush upon us. Our whole lives could be filled with, influenced by, and led by the Spirit of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is always the presence of God in our lives which leads us to Jesus and through Jesus to the Father so that we are as united to God as possible. Not only does that help us to be holy but it helps us to live our lives the best possible.

(THE HOLY SPIRIT) IN THE CHURCH IS the very presence of God taking care of us as is articulated in the psalm. **The 23rd psalm** says:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want, beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

for years to come. The church is the flock of the Lord. We follow the Lord and allow God, the Father to take care of us through the power of Jesus Christ with the working of the Holy Spirit. We need to fully embrace and allow God to work in these ways through the Holy Spirit working in the church.

(THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH IS) THE SIGN OF which needs to happen for us human beings because we cannot experience the Holy Spirit directly. Our second reading from **EPHESIANS** says, *you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.* Light is one of the greatest signs that we use to talk about God. The Holy Spirit helps us to know what God wants us to know and see what we need to see. In the Holy Spirit, feel the power of God's love and learn to see each other with the help of that love. Hopefully, we are walking by that light. **EPHESIANS** also says *Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."* Waking up is another good sign. The Holy Spirit can wake us up and we need to allow us to be awakened by the Spirit so that we see what we need to see. Let us encourage the sign that the Holy Spirit is for us.

(THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH IS THE SIGN OF) CHRIST'S PRESENT POWER AND GLORY. As Catholics, we have not talked about the power and glory of God much and we need to think about it more and try to encounter it, ultimately feel it. In **JOHN'S GOSPEL** it says, *His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We must do the works of the one who sent me*

while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” The power of God was at work in Jesus Christ. His power was all about showing and sharing the unconditional and perfect love of God with everyone especially with those who need it most. The man born blind was an example of how Jesus worked in power to help people. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and sent the Holy Spirit into our lives to continue this powerful work. We can encounter Jesus’ power through the working of the Holy Spirit now. **JOHN’S GOSPEL** also says: *When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he."* He said, *"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."* The glory of God comes through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit when people are truly loved, helped and brought into communion with God and others. The Glory of God is made manifest in the Holy Spirit in how people are treated, welcomed, helped, given a place at the table.

I invite us all to continue to reflect upon the Holy Spirit and invite the Holy Spirit to work in our lives personally. We need to work more as a church to invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. If we want to be closer to God, the Father in Jesus Christ, we need to work with the Holy Spirit. I look forward to finding more ways to do that together.