

GIFTS AND FRUITS

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

Teach me your paths, my God, and guide me in your truth.

PSALM 25:4b, 5a

Reflection

As I reflect today, I am conscious of the Feast of Pentecost that continues to flow into my life. I have come to rely on the gift of the Spirit to guide me in my life's journey. I am reminded of the gift of the Holy Spirit that is the charism or the purpose of the Sisters of St. Joseph these last 375 years. "We live and work to bring all people in union with God and one another." This gift of the Spirit has given meaning, purpose, and direction to my entire life for the last 57 years.

Bringing people to God and one another is the path to God that captured my

imagination in my youth, motivated my own deepening relationship with God, and focused my mission and diverse ministries. This is a path, a charism, that is never outgrown, and never goes out of style.

The yearning for the unity of all people and things with God was Jesus' desire, which reflects God's own desire, and that of the human soul in every generation. Longing for unity in all the richness of diversity directs me on the path before me. That all is One is the secret of God's creation that we have known all along. Science knows this fact, all faiths teach the love of God and neighbor, our hearts seek its reality. Now, it is up to us to receive and live the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are the chosen ones who are blessed and sent to work toward unity today. We are to generously and humbly share the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to heal our wounded yet beautiful world.

Attentiveness to God at work within us, among us, and in all things is a clarion call. The Spirit of God teaches us the ways of God and urges us toward all that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful. Our God guides us toward the best of humanity and requires personal discipline, discernment, and living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that can lead to personal transformation.

We pray for the gifts of the Spirit, which are wisdom, courage, awe in God's presence, reverence, right judgement, knowledge, and understanding.

"The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." – Galatians 5:22-23



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For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- With which gifts and fruits of the Spirit have I been blessed?
- Which gifts and fruits do I most desire?
- How and with whom am I invited to share all that has been given to me?

For Prayer

Holy Spirit, our Living Hope, we long for Your glory and power.

Our hearts long to be overcome by Your presence.

Empower us to do Your works, to understand Your power to share Your gospel, to use Your gifts, and to have inner strength.

Fill our hearts with your love and our world with your peace

so that all honor, glory, and praise be given to God.

Amen.

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