

### THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN US!

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### **Today's First Reading**

Brothers and sisters:

As God is faithful, our word to you is not "yes" and "no."

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was proclaimed to you by us, Silvanus and Timothy and me,

was not "yes" and "no," but "yes" has been in him.

For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory.

But the one who gives us security with you in Christ

But the one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God:

he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22** 

#### Reflection

The Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit have been given to us. I know more deeply that I/we live and move and have our being in and through God's abundant love for us. Every moment and each breath are God-given that we might thrive and serve and reflect God uniquely. It is Pentecost! God's power, presence, and inspiration are ours to embrace. God has "put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment."

Did you notice? The Spirit has been given "as a first installment." Not just once, but repeatedly as our need demands. The Spirit of God is within us always! I have found it helpful to ponder the Holy Spirit as the Life Energy of God breathing through me. I need only recognize and then cooperate with God's abiding presence. Deep peace and joy flow within my being and sustain me for the long view of life.

The Spirit breathed over the waters at creation. The Spirit spoke at the Baptism of Jesus and led him into the desert so he might more fully dwell in the Holy Spirit. In this dwelling, Jesus came to know himself as the tangible presence of God in this world. Jesus claimed his identity and mission always in relationship with God.

We, too, are to reflect, to come to know who we are in the Spirit of God. I/we demonstrate God's presence by our living in fidelity to the Spirit at home in us. Each of us uniquely mirrors something of the image of God among us. Sometimes the Spirit within us challenges our ego desires, our self-centered propensities, fear, and doubt. Then, in moments of stillness, I gradually experience the gifts of the Spirit flowing within me and I awaken to God's indwelling Presence given for my enrichment and inspiration. Then, I am urged in all humility to give away all that is gift of God, given for the compassionate care of all dear neighbors.

Wisdom, courage, awe in God's Presence, reverence, right judgment, knowledge, and understanding are the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be engaged and shared.



Woman in White Long Sleeves Praying Outside Photo by Olia Danilevicj

# **For Pondering**

- How do you perceive the Spirit at work in your life and ministry?
- What gift of the Spirit attracts you?
- What gift of the Spirit do you resist?
- What gift do you desire currently?

# **For Prayer**

Gracious One,
Hold me close to your heart in prayer,
Through this time of sharing and listening,
Create in me a new heart and a new vision,
So that the gifts of your Holy Spirit
May work in me and renew the face of the earth.
May I be one with you and with others
So that our work is yours and your work is ours.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word,
Who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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