



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 4: Building the Kingdom of God on Earth

3. How the Holy Spirit Works in Us

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to the careful reading of the Gospel, going from gospel to life, and life to gospel. Rule 4

The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This joint mission henceforth brings Christ's faithful to share in his communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit **prepares** men and goes out to them with his grace, in order to draw them to Christ. The Spirit **manifests** the risen Lord to them, recalls his word to them and opens their minds to the understanding of his death and resurrection. He **makes present** the mystery of Christ, supremely in the Eucharist, in order to reconcile them, to **bring them into communion** with God, that they may 'bear much fruit'.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 737

The movement toward the gospel in the Middle Ages was an example of a special charism or gift of the Spirit for the ever-needed renewal of the Church. St Francis was gifted with a special charism to be a prominent part of the renewal of the Church of his day. We now open ourselves to all the Spirit wishes to do for the Church today through the continuing spirit of Francis.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived* Reflection 10 (p 38)



FOUR QUESTIONS.....

From the extract from the *Catechism* above, which phrase or word best expresses your experience of the Holy Spirit?

How do you recognise the 'gifts of the Spirit' in your life?

What is the biggest obstacle in your life to being open to the Spirit?

The 'fruit of the Spirit' is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Discuss the importance of each of these in Christian life.



Then he entered into the city of Assisi and began, as though drunk with the Holy Spirit [Cf. Acts 2.15ff], to praise God aloud in the streets and the squares.....



Scripture—

I Cor 12. 4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Phil 4. 10-13

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.