



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTION

ON THE HOLY SPIRIT - TOWARDS A TRANSFORMED LIFE

SHALOM of Jesus to every one of you. We are almost at the end of the pandemic and are heading towards a new future, healthy and holy. The Feast of the Holy Spirit initiates in us a new transformed life. The Holy Spirit leads us into a new life.

After Jesus had completed his Salvific Mission on earth, it still remained necessary for us to become sharers in the divine nature of the Lord. We had to give up our own life and be so transformed that we would begin to live an entirely new kind of life that would be pleasing to God. This was something we could do only by sharing in the Holy Spirit. The sending of the Holy Spirit by the Lord and the Spirit's descent upon us took place after the departure of Christ. As long as Jesus was with them in flesh it must have seemed to believers that they possessed every blessing in them. But when the time came for him to ascend to his heavenly Father, it was necessary for him to be united through his Spirit to those who worshipped him and to dwell in our hearts through Faith. Only by his own presence within us in this way could he give us confidence to cry out "Abba Father", make it easy for us to grow in holiness. Through the possession of the all-powerful Spirit, he will fortify us invincibly against the wiles of the devil and the assaults of man and the world.

There are examples in both Old and New Testaments that the Spirit changes those in whom he comes to dwell. He so transforms them that they begin to live a completely new kind of life. King Saul, in the Book of Samuel, was told by Prophet Samuel: The Spirit of the Lord will take possession of you and you shall be changed into another man. St. Paul writes: As we behold the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, that glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us all into his own likeness, from one degree of glory to another.

Thus, the Spirit changes those in whom he comes to dwell and alters the whole pattern of their lives. With the Spirit within them, it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of the world to become entirely other-worldly in outlook and for the cowards to become people of great courage. No doubt, all these happened to the disciples of Jesus. The strength we receive from the Spirit enables us to hold firmly to the love of Christ, facing the violence of persecution unafraid. It was to our advantage that Jesus returned to heaven and it was the time appointed for the descent of the Holy Spirit. So let us keep open our hearts and minds to the power of the Holy Spirit who will transform our lives. "Come, Holy Spirit and fill our hearts and lead us to your whole Truth".

May the Spirit of Jesus fill you all up. God bless.

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj
Parish Priest

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