

7 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WISDOM - is the ability to see with eyes of faith and to judge God's will for you. We become aware of God's presence in the world found in the many people and in the various circumstances they encounter. We must be able to gain deeper insights into the Catholic faith and in the gift of life itself. We must be able to develop God's values, to know what to do and how to do it.

Wisdom enables us to love the things of God. It helps us to see life from God's point of view. We recognize the real value of persons, events and things. Wisdom keeps us from foolishly judging only by appearances. It makes us mature in the way we think and act.

UNDERSTANDING - gives you a grasp of what Jesus means in your life and the lives of others. We must be able to explain why we live as Christians if we, like the apostles, are to lead others to the Lord. What we say must be persuasive and effective and accurate. We should know the message of Christ as proclaimed by his Church. Therefore, we should have a basic and growing grasp of Scripture, the Creed and Catholic tradition.

Understanding gives us insight into the truths of faith. We know the meaning and the consequences of what God tells us about himself and all He has created. Understanding grows through prayer and through the reading of Scripture.

KNOWLEDGE - helps us to be aware of Jesus' message and put our faith into words which others can understand and appreciate. We have personal experience and knowledge of what we bear witness to. We must be able to recognize the religious dimension of our lives and to be aware that this is produced in us by the Holy Spirit.

The gift of knowledge helps us realize the truths of the universe. We experience God. We come to know who we are and the true value of things through life events. This gift also enables us to recognize temptations for what they are and turn to God for help.

COURAGE - provides the strength needed to face troubles. Be ready to suffer for what we believe. We bear witness to Christ before a world which is often dominated by evil. Fidelity to the Lord demands that we courageously resist evil within ourselves and struggle against social evil.

The gift of courage enables us to stand up for our beliefs and to live as a follower of Christ. With this gift we have the inner strength to do what is right in the faces of difficulties and to endure suffering with faith. Courage helps us to undertake challenging tasks in the service of God, but it also takes courage to be faithful to ordinary duties. It takes strength to live a good Christian life when no one praises us or notices our efforts.

COUNSEL (or RIGHT JUDGMENT) - helps you decide what to do in problem situations. We must have enough maturity and discernment to inspire confidence and be convincing so that others are willing to take guidance and direction from us. This means we have good judgment, together with stability and consistency in the way we look at life and in the way we respond. We must demonstrate integrity and responsibility.

The gift of counsel helps us to seek advice and to be open to the advice of others. Using this gift, we seek direction in the sacrament of Reconciliation and ask advice from a parent or friend. Counsel also helps us to give advice; it enables us to help others with their problems: to speak up and encourage others to do the right thing.

REVERENCE (PIETY) - brings a deep appreciation of God's power and the ability to approach Him as a loving Father. We must be attractive in the way we live our Christian lives. Prayerful, self-sacrificial service will make it clear that the Spirit of Christ the Servant is alive and active in us, enabling us to love others as Christ loved them.

Reverence helps us love and worship God. Reverence for God leads to prayer (individual and communal) and to a deep respect for God, for all His people, and for all that He has created.

AWE AND WONDER (FEAR OF GOD) - is the wonderment of how God operates in our lives. We must have moved beyond the immature faith which is simply a share in the faith of others. We must have made our own personal act of faith, a loyal deliverance of ourselves to God and a determination to live our lives as active members of the Church. In this way we ratify the act of faith made at our baptism by the community. This kind of self-gift demands a self-possession which normally comes only after childhood has passed.

The gift of awe helps us to recognize the majesty of God and our dependence on Him. It leads us to marvel at God's great love for us; it helps us to avoid anything that would separate us from His love. It helps us to pray to God and never to lose trust in Him.

KNOW GOD'S WILL

Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel (Right Judgment)
Knowledge

DO GOD'S WILL

Courage
Reverence (Piety)
Awe & Wonder (Fear of God)

12 FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Love - Joy - Peace - Patience
Kindness - Goodness - Faithfulness - Generosity
Modesty - Chastity - Gentleness - Self-Control

7 Gifts
12 Fruits