

July 21, 2019

GOD's POWERFUL SPIRIT (Continued)

GOD's POWERFUL SPIRIT: several weeks ago, I wrote to you about the amazing POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. We were still in our amazing YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (before Pentecost 2019). Since then, I have experienced that Power in my own life and I have shared with you some of these personal stories in my own homilies at daily and Sunday Masses. Some of you have asked me to write such intimate events of my life in my weekly column to you. With some reluctance, and with the help of the HOLY SPIRIT, I have decided to write such stories in the coming weeks. Here is the first one:

You may recall that I went to the Big Island of Hawaii last February. It was a great honor for me to give a special blessing to one of my great nieces from Japan and her fiancé in the presence of their personal friends (coming also from Japan for that event) and my own family from California (son, daughter-in-law, two grand-daughters...). For those of you new parishioners and who do not know me yet, do not be scandalized, I am a widower and entered the seminary at St John XXIII in Boston one year after my wife's death...she was Japanese and had converted from Buddhism to Catholicism two years after our marriage in the Catholic Church.

On the long return flight from Big Island Hawaii to Los Angeles (where I caught a connecting flight to Dulles), I got hungry in the middle of the flight. I went to the flight attendants' station in the far back of the plane. As usual, and as every day of my priestly life I wear my cleric's attire, including my collar. This is to remind me of my own identity: I am a Catholic priest (now for 10 years) and it is also a way to evangelize.

Two flight attendants were chatting quietly. The whole airplane was dark and silent with most passengers trying to sleep. I simply asked: Do you have some food? I am hungry! This was the beginning of a long conversation that quickly moved to evangelization (here I had a captive audience that had nothing to do and could not go anywhere). To make a long story short, one of the flight attendants began to ask me questions about the Catholic Faith (my white collar spoke more than words). She was clearly "spiritual "but not "religious" (unfortunately a growing category of more and more Americans). I told her my usual response: we need two legs to walk, one is your personal connection to God, which is foundational for anyone, and the other is the Church which brings 2,000 years of Christian, divine teaching/ wisdom and Tradition, including sound interpretation of the Bible and most importantly the seven Sacraments instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, who founded the Catholic (meaning Universal) Church upon the Rock, the Anchor, Peter".

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALWAYS AT WORK IN EVERY ONE OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS. Usually, we think of the Holy Spirit as central to Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders (Priesthood and Diaconate), the three Sacraments that one can receive only once. However, HE is active in

every other Sacrament, including the EUCHARIST and RECONCILIATION (Confession). In the last three or four weeks, as I have been attacked by the Devil and other evil spirits, and it is only by asking: COME HOLY SPIRIT (the most beautiful, powerful, and shortest prayer: (only THREE WORDS!)) that I could be fully protected from any harm.

At the end of a long , spiritual and religious conversation , and to my surprise, the most vocal of the two flight attendants, the one spiritual, but not religious, asked me : CAN YOU PRAY OVER ME ? How could I refuse? Through my hands, I began to feel the POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...and I then knew that she was totally open to receive the HOLY SPIRIT ...She was visibly shaken up and me too.... Since then, I have prayed over many people that I just met for the first time...or I felt they needed special help , including today Tuesday July 16 (day I am writing this column): in the morning I prayed over someone in the street who recognized me and thanked me for having healed his leg several months ago (at our regular monthly healing Mass, normally after the 7 pm Mass on the third Sunday of the month) and seeing in his eyes some deep suffering, I prayed over him right there on the sidewalk and I could feel his whole body being shaken up and getting some relief from on-going challenges in his life...later on at midday, I prayed over someone at the barber shop (I get my "numerous and long hair, cut every other week so as to evangelize) and also felt a powerful impact of the Holy Spirit through my hands. Finally, later in the afternoon, I prayed also over a third person, who not only was shaken up but also I could feel some evil spirit being expelled. In those three instances, I also prayed in tongues, another gift of the Holy Spirit. This is not to boast about me. I have no merit whatsoever. It is simply a GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, which God has reinforced throughout OUR YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, which I said many times would never end.

COME HOLY SPIRIT! HELP THOSE MOST IN NEED, TO HAVE THE DESIRE TO OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO YOU, HOLY SPIRIT! HELP EVERYONE BE AWARE THAT WE ALL HAVE THIS INTERNAL, CONSTANT BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL! MAY WE BE CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE LOVE AND FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN OUR HEARTS, WE SHOULD FEAR NOBODY AT ALL! DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU CAN BE VICTORIOUS OVER ANY EVIL SPIRITUAL? I DO.



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*