

**TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT!**

**Time for Holy Spirit! Is there a time for the Holy Spirit?** In my last two columns, I have covered “**time for change**” and “**time for ordinary**”. Though those two writings were lengthy, many of you read them and made comments or asked questions. One question was: **Why** does the Bible seem to imply that if there is a time for A, there is also a time for the opposite of A , e.g. a time for laugh and a time for cry, a time for work and a time for rest , a time for wealth and a time for poverty, a time for change and a time for stability, a time for ordinary and a time for extraordinary ...?

Think for ten seconds: is there a noun, or object or person that lasts **forever**? An obvious answer is **God**! We believe that **God** always existed and will always exist. Yes, **God** is eternal (no beginning and no end) while infinite (no limit), omnipotent (all power) and omniscient (all knowledge). So, can we say that there is a time for God and a time for **evil**? No, because God is always victorious against Evil! However, though the Holy Spirit (celebrated at Pentecost and Most Blessed Trinity) is God as one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, I still believe that one can say that there is a **time for Holy Spirit** and a **time for evil spirit**, as we can say that is a time for **goodness** and a time for **badness**. Yes, the Holy Spirit had always existed, that **love** between the **Father** and the **Son**. However, there are times when we no longer feel the **presence** of the **Holy Spirit**, as our minds and souls then seem to be overwhelmed by bad events originating from the Master of Sin, Satan also called Devil.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI gave very insightful reflections about **God-Heaven –End of Time**. First, he gave us a simple approach when seeking an understanding of **Heaven**. He said, “Heaven is to be with God...Heaven is God”. Since God is infinite (no limit), eternal and omnipresent (everywhere), it implies that God cannot be limited in time nor space. In another way, one can say that when being with God there is no more time, no more space in the way we understand it here on earth. As Heaven is God, it implies that in Heaven there is no space, no time. As our souls never die, exist forever, one can say that our souls (existing since our conception) can be in Heaven right here right now. There is no need to wait for the death of the body: when we receive the Eucharist, we truly receive the Body of Christ we are totally transformed and we become **one with Christ**. As Jesus Christ is **God**, the true Triune **God** (three persons in one God), we truly become **one in God**! We know that this deep Union lasts only a few minutes, as it disappears when the Body of Christ is fully consumed within our body.

In conclusion, let's return to the **Holy Spirit**, As we were closing our full Year of the Holy Spirit three weeks ago at Pentecost , we could all feel the strong presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend (all regular Sunday Masses, but also at the 10 pm Vigil Mass, the monthly French Mass, and in the times between Masses). Someone asked me: Father, why don't we continue the Year of the Holy Spirit beyond last Pentecost? My answer is simple: the Year of the Holy Spirit at OLHOC will never end: the strong presence of the Holy Spirit at OLHOC is an integral part of our identity as a parish: as a welcoming (Narthex) , prayerful ( main church , Blessed Sacrament Chapel and yet to be built Perpetual Adoration Chapel ) and joyful (Father Martin Hall) parish , we need the constant help of both the Holy Spirit and His Spouse Mary (our patroness Saint). On a personal note, the last three weeks have been particularly stressful

(with all the on-going changes as described in my column “Time for Change” (2 weeks ago). However, in the last 10 days a miracle happened: all the stress vanished! I could feel once again the strong presence of the Holy Spirit in my heart, in my life, and especially in all the decisions I had to make and could make them in a peaceful way (quite a contrast with the earlier weeks). I prayed every day: **Come Holy Spirit Come! Guide all my steps! Come Holy Spirit! Help me make the right decisions** always following God's will! The Holy Spirit helped me to **have no fear!**

**When did the Holy Spirit arrive at OLHOC? Is He going to stay here for good?** Two possible answers:

**First**, in many ways, the Holy Spirit has always been with us even when we did not have a church building, an anchor: for the first 10 years of our young parish (1980-1990) and like the Israelites were wandering in a spiritual desert (going back and forth from Public Elementary School Dr. Mudd school to Methodist Church Good Shepherd) ...From our Baptism, the Holy Spirit is within each of us, even if we do not feel His Love nor His Presence.

**Second**, we have just been blessed with a **surprise** from the Holy Spirit! Last Tuesday, at long last, the **Holy Spirit**, in the form of a **Dove** , flew into our church and then remained above the baptistry, a very fitting place , reminding us of the one Baptism of Jesus by His cousin John-Baptist when many artistic representations (paintings) have shown the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. About three years ago, I recall that while praying to the Holy Spirit and raising my head towards heaven (through our skylight) I saw a dove flying and then stopping on top of our own skylight. My thought then: maybe one day, we will have a painting of such a dove as Holy Spirit, in our own church. Praise the Lord: a few weeks later, we received a surprise from the family of the recently deceased Mr. Norman Levasseur, a long -time parishioner who sat down always on the same chair toward the back of the church, spoke French with me, and also played golf with other parishioners. The Levasseur family wanted to honor the memory of their father and grandfather Mr. Levasseur and his wife Margaret, deceased a few years earlier. We agreed that the best way to honor Norman and Margaret would be to have a beautiful stained glass of the Holy Spirit in form of a dove! This painting was expected to arrive just before Pentecost, but it did not ...and arrived only last Tuesday. It is now hanging over the baptistry reminding us of Jesus' own baptism. **Did you notice any change in the back of the church last week?** This weekend, pay attention to the changes around you... And discover the **Holy Spirit: He has arrived and will stay where he is** (no more flying). I would like to use this opportunity to thank the entire Levasseur family for this generous gift and we have a commemorative plaque in preparation.

**Come Holy Spirit! Guide us and lead us on the way to Eternal Life!**



*One in Christ,  
Father Alain*