

Focus: Wrap-up the Proclamation → Live your RESPONSE in the power of the Holy Spirit

1. Review: The Proclamation/Kerygma

- a. Created, Captured, Rescued, Response
 - i. Response: Surrender, Repentance, Discipleship

2. The Holy Spirit Makes an Appropriate Response Possible

- a. Who/What is the Holy Spirit? (*Acts 2 - page 41 in the missalette*)
 - i. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appears as *“tongues as of fire”*.
 - ii. Exodus 19:18 → *“Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke, for the LORD came down upon it in fire.”*
 - iii. Luke 12:49 → Jesus: *“I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!”*
 1. The Holy Spirit is God, a divine Person.
 2. Hebrews 12:29 → *“...our God is a consuming fire.”*
 - a. That fire comes to dwell among and in the Church and her members.
- b. How does the Holy Spirit empower the Church and her members? (John 20; 1 Cor 12)
 - i. First, the Holy Spirit is present in the Sacraments. Without the power of the Holy Spirit - the power of God - nothing would happen. With the power of the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments do what they signify.
 1. *John 20:22-23 (page 43)* → It is only the Holy Spirit who makes the Apostles capable of forgiving sins, something only God can do.
 2. Ordinary humans cannot apply God's grace to natural actions in order to make them supernatural. The Holy Spirit gives us access to the grace of God. Power!
 - ii. Second, the Holy Spirit is present in each and every Christian disciple.
 1. *1 Cor 12:3 (p. 42)* → *“No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”*
 - a. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that I can truly surrender.
 2. *1 Cor 12:7* → *“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”* (RSV: “the common good”)
 - a. You have been given spiritual gifts (*charisms*) by the Holy Spirit, which are meant to be used for the common good.
 - b. What is the common good?
 - i. The glory of God, which is the salvation of souls.
 - c. The Lord God has empowered you to make his presence and salvation known in the world. In Oklee, Goodridge, and Grygla.
 - d. You have a part to play! When you were baptized, you were made a member of the Body of Christ. Jesus now lives and acts in the world through you.

3. What if this was the main focus of each and every member of our parishes?

- a. Once a person has surrendered him/herself to the Lord Jesus and his Church, what if the first thing each of us did is look for the power of the Holy Spirit in our life?
- b. Do you know your gifts? Are you using them for the glory of God? Are you using them to help save people from eternal damnation?
- c. Are you willing to be creative about using those gifts? Do you consider going outside the box of, “We've always done it this way”?
- d. What if our first question was, “What do I have to give away?”
 - i. Time, energy, abilities, finances, etc.
 - ii. Anything for the mission of winning souls over to Jesus.
 - iii. *“Holy Spirit, how do you want to live and work through me? How do you want to wake up the people around me?”*

Read: 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4 (esp. v 11-16); 1 Peter 4:7-11; Joel 2:28-30