



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2015

Pastor's Column

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Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit...

“Brothers and sisters, do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

With these words, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians that they have been given a special gift—the gift of the Holy Spirit—which they are to engage and use as they go about their everyday lives.

Their lives now can and must be different because they have been gifted and sealed with this Spirit of strength, energy, and courage.

This gift when employed on a daily basis will bring them to the fullness of salvation and redemption, and will carry them to heaven.

If they return to their old selves and their old ways of life, then the Holy Spirit is being tossed aside, a gift no longer desired, like a friend who is now abandoned and no longer wanted.

If and when this happens, the Holy Spirit is saddened, the Holy Spirit is grieved. This language is very human in its tone and gives the Holy Spirit human-like qualities: personality and feelings.

This same gift of the Holy Spirit, of which the Letter to the Ephesians speaks, has also been given to us and we have been sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit desires to be in personal relationship with us, and wants to work on our behalf to bring us joy and peace, in this life and in the life to come.

Are we using this gift of the Holy Spirit, or are we grieving the Holy Spirit? What is the condition of our lives today?

The Ephesians are reminded, and we as well, that if we are to live in the Holy Spirit, we must remove all bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, reviling, and malice. We must be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving, and living in love.

The Holy Spirit makes all these ways of living possible!

As we examine our lives today, let us be willing to ask: “Am I grieving the Holy Spirit, the gift with which I have been sealed for the day of redemption, or am I befriending the Holy Spirit, and becoming a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma?”

Fr. Mike