

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

October 6, 2019



The Holy Spirit & Self Control

“Beloved: I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather of power and love and self-control. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us (2 Timothy 1:6-7,14).” This week we are reminded by St. Paul in his letter to St. Timothy about the power of the Holy Spirit. Each of us who has been baptized has been entered into the life of the Holy Spirit as beloved sons and daughters of Our Heavenly Father. When St. Paul offers his words of encouragement, we can receive them anew today as motivation for living out the call to holiness.

Sometimes we might be tempted to back away from living our faith in Jesus Christ boldly, but through the Holy Spirit we have been given the power of God’s love that helps us to live virtuously. Self-control as a fruit of the Holy Spirit is a blessing to help us in our interaction with the created world. We are to live ordered lives in relationship to what God has made for our benefit and sustenance. The Holy Spirit helps us to live in a healthy way with the created goods around us and thus through the fruit of self-control things like shopping, sports, chocolate, food, technology, sex, money etc... are ordered in how they are incorporated into our way of life. We need the Holy Spirit to help us to live a balanced life that is ordered toward the praise of God. There can be human tendencies toward obsession with the things of this world especially in our times of weakness, insecurity, need for control, loneliness, and woundedness. The fruit of holiness is a sweetness in our soul tasted when we are around created goods and have no disordered desire for them. We are at peace with our interaction with them as well as with those around us who we share the delights with. “These fruits of the Spirit make us happy and contented, and help us to be modest and self-restrained, kind, and loveable to God and man. We Christians should always be joyful and happy, for God loves us as tenderly as a father and daily showers upon us a thousand gifts and favors. As long as we are innocent and good we shall be happy. (Religion: Doctrine and Practice, 217).” If you struggle with the use of worldly things, pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to grow in the discipline of prayer, love, and virtue. Ask the Holy Spirit to increase within you a desire for heaven, a desire for others to be served and a desire to share the goods of creation you have been given with others.

School Marathon

It is a great joy to be a priest at a cluster of parishes where we have a Catholic School. One of the great joys is to be able to join students, teachers and parents for various events. This past week featured the Marathon for Non-Public Education fundraiser. I am humbled at the out pouring of support for Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School and our children, staff and families. I especially thank all of our generous benefactors who contributed to match the wonderful gift that Bob Washa offered to our school as a pledge challenge of \$20,000 to \$25,000. May God reward each of you for your selflessness!

St. Patrick Fall Festival

Everyone in our area is invited out to St. Patrick’s of Shieldsville on October 6, 2019 for the parish Fall Festival. Come on out for a wonderful day of celebration in the gifts that God has blessed us with. Holy Mass begins at 10:00 am with a large meal, beverages, raffle, games, live music and fun for all! Thank you in advance to all of our leadership from St. Patrick’s who have put in many hours to make our festival day so special!

God bless each of you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus