

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS ON CONFIRMATION



Reflection One

Scripture Reading

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability...in our own languages we heard them speaking about God's deeds of power." (Acts 2:1-4, 11)

Reflection

Sometimes at the communion rite at Mass I find myself watching all the people moving by my pew on their way to receive communion or a blessing.

Little children, people in wheel chairs, babies and parents, young people, elderly, middle aged people, pregnant women, dark and light skins, the healthy and the sick. I marvel that such a diversity of people is able to gather and worship together—the Spirit of God has spoken to them where they are at in their lives journey and they have responded by gathering in worship.

It is beyond my comprehension to understand the power of the Spirit that unites such a diverse group of people.

Prayer

God of unity and diversity, help us to live in harmony with you in community as your confirmed people. Bless us with openness to speak your Word so that all may understand it. We ask this in the name of Jesus the source of all unity. Amen.

Reflection Two

Scripture Reading

"Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit." (Joel 2:28-29)

Reflection

The reading from Joel dares us to see visions—to imagine what can be through the power of the Spirit. As baptized and confirmed Christians we are called to be people of hope, to see possibilities where others may not, to imagine a place where all are loved, accepted, and have more than what they need for life to the full.

Prayer

God of resurrections and hope, we celebrate your gift of life to all people. Bless us with courage and perseverance to be hope in the face of despair and light in the midst of darkness. Dare us to imagine life to the full for all. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Reflection Three

Scripture Reading

“...but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Reflection

I think I’d rather whine about my sufferings than boast about them. Whining seems easier than embracing my sufferings and by working through them letting them transform me into a better person. I won’t pray for more suffering and challenges in my life, but I will pray for a heart that allows the Spirit of God to nurture hope and faith and strength within me through the sufferings I face.

Prayer

All challenging God, you know us and understand us in our gifts and in our limitations. As we celebrate Confirmation bless us with a hopeful heart, that sees beyond pain and struggle to the beauty of being transformed by your Spirit. We ask this prayer in union with Jesus the suffering resurrected Lord. Amen.

Reflection Four

Scripture Reading

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)

Reflection

As humans we easily get caught up in our own sense of time—our daily schedules and commitments, day timers and palm pilots and stuffed calendars. We forget that the

creative wind of God’s spirit has been with us from the beginning, that we are part of the fabric of God’s time. As we celebrate Confirmation we are challenged to once again open our lives to the creative energy of the Spirit.

Prayer

Energizing and creative God, wrap us in the power of the Spirit that created the heavens and the earth. Challenge us to see all time as your time, as graced moments to renew the face of the earth. We pray in the name of creator God, loving Jesus, dynamic Spirit. Amen.

Reflection Five

Scripture Reading

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.” (Exodus 14:21-22)

Reflection

In the movie “Prince of Egypt” the animated Hebrew slaves stand in awe as the Red Sea was parted for them so that they might escape the tyranny of Pharaoh. Have you ever stood in awe marveling at how the Spirit has helped you deal with obstacles and challenges in your life that you thought were too impossible to overcome? I am often amazed that when I think my life is too full and I cannot manage anything else that someone will call needing important help. I reluctantly agree wondering how I am going to get my own stuff done and somehow time and time again it always works out. Confirmation is a graced time to let the Holy Spirit remove the obstacles to our living as free children of God.

Prayer

God of the Red Sea, you gift us with your Spirit to guide us through the challenges and struggles in life. Help us to have the courage to let your Spirit work through us to help others “part the Red Seas” that they need parting. Jesus our liberator, hear our prayer. Amen.

Reflection Six

Scripture Reading

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

Reflection

Truly discerning the will of God in our lives can prompt us to take directions we did not even consider before. We consider post high school volunteer service programs, career choices that were so different than what we thought we were going to do, marrying and having children, joining a religious community, getting confirmed. Jesus in the John 3:8 passage is saying that the Spirit is present among us, invisible sometimes and not under our control, but able to be glimpsed when we ponder life with open hearts and minds.

Prayer

Life giving God, you who formed us and knew us even before we were born, help us to root our lives in you so that your Spirit may guide and enrich our lives. God of knowledge, Spirit of wisdom, Jesus our Messiah, hear us. Amen.

Reflection Seven

Scripture Reading

“I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.” (Ezekiel 36:25-26)

Reflection

Filled with the love of God through the gift of the Spirit we’ll want to follow God’s statutes and observe his ordinance. Confirmation is a season of renewal, an opportunity to center our lives on what is most important.

Prayer

Grant us a new heart O God, send your steadfast Spirit upon us so that we may renew the face of the earth. Amen

