

Notes on Canon Poucin's Faith Talk

Talk 1: Introduction to the seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost.

The inspirations of the Holy Ghost are always ordered to enable us to act perfectly so as to attain our salvation. A common misunderstanding is to think that the gifts of the Holy Ghost received at baptism are the same as at confirmation. St Thomas Aquinas in the Summa Theologiae Ia IIae, Q68 poses a distinction between the virtues and the gifts of the Holy Ghost. They are similar and linked but nonetheless distinct. The 'virtues' are infused directly by God at baptism and the 'gifts' (referred to in scripture as 'The spirit of...' see Is 11 2,3 as the spirit of ..understanding...etc..) are given at confirmation.

Virtue - Baptism			Gift - Confirmation	
Theological virtues – Infused at baptism. The action is directed towards God	Charity	Corresponds to	Knowledge	Corresponds to one of the beatitudes
	Faith		Understanding	
	Hope		Wisdom	
Cardinal virtues – human virtues giving a permanent disposition, to guide our actions. Elevated to a supernatural level at baptism	Prudence		Counsel	
	Justice		Piety	
	Strength		Fortitude	
	Temperance		Fear of the Lord	

Jesus promises to send the Holy Ghost Jn 14:15 and St Paul in his Epistles repeatedly refers to the Holy Ghost. It is the action of the Holy Ghost in us that will transform us into the image of Jesus.

The Holy Ghost is the procession of love between the Father and the Son. God is both power/intelligence (*in metaphysics termed the potential to exist but not yet in existence*) and action/procession = will/love (*in meta physics the realization of that potential*). For love to be perfect it **MUST** be reciprocated. A failure to reciprocate leaves a love that is incomplete. Jesus' Sacrifice on Calvary atones for our imperfect love. Hence the Mass offers to God THE perfect offering.

The gifts of the Holy Ghost support and purify us to aid our journey towards God but never infringes our free will.

Next talk 12th November 'Fear of the Lord'