

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

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The Solemnity of Christ the King on November 24th concludes the Year of Faith. Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed during this year our duty as Catholics, and therefore most especially as members of the Order of Malta, to be actively engaged in the “new evangelization” called for by his predecessors Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI. On May 17th he said, “We are called to open ourselves more and more to the Holy Spirit’s work - to be instruments of God’s mercy, His tenderness, His love for every man and woman, and especially for the poor - It isn’t an optional mission but an essential one.”

Notice that the Holy Father stresses that to be engaged in evangelization we must “open ourselves more and more to the HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK,” not simply to do our work as we see fit. To put it another way, we are not to limit ourselves by doing “God’s work,” but rather “allowing God to do his work through us”! This is a subtle but very important difference. Blessed Mother Teresa was adamant that her sisters are not social workers “but ambassadors for Christ” (II Cor. 5/20) who recognize the face of Jesus in the “poorest of the poor.”

In order to allow God to work through us that we might fulfill our mission in the Order, we need the Holy Spirit. We can’t force the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives by our own efforts. All we can do is beg the Holy Spirit to inspire us to allow God more and more to accomplish His will through us. Our Blessed Mother is the perfect model of the one who gave her total self in response to the Holy Spirit’s work in her. “Be it done unto me according to your word” (Lk 1/38). “Come Holy Spirit - enkindle the fire of your love in my heart - give me the grace to say yes to your inspiration so You shall renew the face of the earth.” Or in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.” - **Fr. Douglas Mosey, C.S.B., Ph.D., Rector - Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Cromwell, CT**