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Call on the Holy Spirit

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Well at least they're European – only to discover some centuries later that the Holy Spirit is alive among Africans and Asians and South Americans and the people from the islands. What's around the next bend in the road? Who knows where the Wind and the Fire will drive us.

More to come

Back to Teilhard: "When all the hidden potentialities of the universe have been unearthed, then Christ will be all in all." Then a prayer at the Easter fire will come true: "All time belongs to him and all the ages and all the peoples."

In our own time we haven't yet tapped the resources that the Spirit has endowed us with. We're not yet a world where individual dignity really counts. We're not yet a church where the talents and gifts of women and men are fully appreciated. They still rust among us unused. We still make too many social, class and sex distinctions – distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, man and woman. Not enough people are hearing the word of God in their own language – it's still coming to them in foreign tongues, sometimes even in forked tongues.

We need to hear and live, as individuals and as a church, what Pope John Paul said to the First Nations people in Midland several years ago; "Christ in the members of his body is himself Indian."

Let us not miss the presence and power of the Holy Spirit by busying ourselves taking out insurance policies against the Wind and the Fire. ■

Call on the Holy Spirit

Bishop Gerard Bergie

It was not until the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost that their hearts were no longer troubled. They were on fire. They employed these gifts to leave that upper room where they were hiding and go forth and boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

They had courage; they had wisdom; they had understanding; they had wonder and awe. They were on fire and because of that they established the church. People listened and believed and then felt compelled to share their message with others. This has continued down to our present day.

"I am the way, the truth and the life," Jesus said. We must turn to the power of the Spirit within us, the power that makes all things possible. We are very fortunate that we too have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When our hearts are troubled we should go to the Holy Spirit. If we do, our hearts will be set ablaze and we will not focus on the bad news but on the good news.

I've often pondered the fact that the apostles were able to do so much good relying on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we, as Catholics, believe that Confirmation is a new Pentecost, that the same Holy Spirit comes upon the candidates for Confirmation; if we believe we receive the same gifts of the Holy Spirit – why are we not able to do the same things that the apostles did? We should also set this world on fire. The power of the Spirit is within us, the Spirit that makes all things possible. Why do we not feel compelled to share the good news about Jesus Christ – that he is the way, the truth and the life? That is true evangelization. But we don't use these gifts properly.

When we have important decisions to make we can turn to the Holy Spirit and ask that Spirit to reignite the gifts of wisdom and right judgment so that our decisions will be the right decisions.

How many times do we waffle and go back and forth, back and forth, wasting so much emotional energy: should I ...? shouldn't I ...? Back and forth. Back and forth.

I present to you this challenge: trust that the Way, the Truth and the Life will set your hearts ablaze. I urge you sincerely: call upon the power of the Holy Spirit within you. Then you will be courageous. You will be wise. You will be moving forward and not going in circles.

We don't call on the Holy Spirit enough. When your heart is troubled – call on the Holy Spirit. Pray to the Holy Spirit – and incredible things will happen. Continue to proclaim the good news that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.