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## TransCanada Chapter 2014: Make space for the Holy Spirit

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# TransCanada Chapter 2014



## Make space for the Holy Spirit

Robert Colburn CSSp

Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit

**D**uring the past two months I have heard, at a variety of Masses and Morning Prayers, many varied and sincere prayers for our TransCanada Chapter. All of these prayers had a common theme: *Make space for the Holy Spirit!*

In all of these prayers there was an urgency, individually and collectively, to push things aside. There was a loud cry to push aside how we have always done it and make a way, an empty space, for the Holy Spirit. It is clear to me today that in this Mass of the Holy Spirit we are called to open our hearts, our lives, our communities, the TransCanada Province itself so that there is an empty space for the Holy Spirit to do Her thing.

There must be some truth in this call, some inner communal sense that from time to time we do get in the way of the Holy Spirit. It is clear that at times we put our own agenda, goals, hopes and wants ahead of what might be a better way.

I have no easy answer as to how we open the space; how we empty our lives, our very selves. The first reading from the prophet, Hosea, like many scripture passages, tells us what might be keeping us from emptying a space for the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps we have always had an inner sense of what blocks God from our lives. The prophet Hosea asks us if we have set ourselves up as kings and princes. We ask ourselves, have we gotten back up on our priestly pedestals? Have we filled the empty space with the seeking of gold and silver — have we filled the empty space with laptops, cars, cell phones, travel, entitlements and “me time”? Have we built multiple altars to other gods but never an altar for the Holy Spirit?

If you are as old as I am then you have no problem realizing how, when we have filled our lives with stuff and the Holy Spirit wants an empty space to grow and bear fruit, we can



be so very surprised at how quickly and completely the Holy Spirit can push stuff and things, including the dead wood, out of the way. Sometimes this “push” can come from a sudden change in our health, the loss of a ministry or a pet project, a family death, the departure from the Congregation of a confrere, the invitation of a superior to take on another work, retreat time or a renewal year.

At times like this when the “push” is on, it is what we do with this “push” that is important. Psalm 115 tells us to trust. We who call ourselves Spiritans should be even more open to this trust, to clearing away the stuff, clearing an empty space and letting the Holy Spirit surprise us. That is my prayer for this Chapter and my delight will be that when we leave here on Friday we will have been totally surprised by how the Holy Spirit has worked in our personal lives and in the Province of TransCanada. ■



