

Vox Episcopi

25 May 2023

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

When Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians instructing them about gifts, he was not just reminding them of how talented they might be, but rather that they were gifted by God for a purpose. And that purpose could only be realised if each one lived in a full and wholesome relationship with God. In the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul reminds us that the Spirit is not just some force or power of God the Father, but a person who works along with the Son and in relation to the Father.

The Spirit teaches us to be authentic in our relationship with God. Not to see God as a force or power, but as a person who thinks about us and loves each one of us and works for us and redeems us.

As sons and daughters of God we are led by the Spirit. As Catholic Christians we believe that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate preview and pledge of our salvation.

Some years ago, during one of his catechetical teachings Pope Benedict XVI spoke with conviction when he said, "One of the greatest evils of our time is mediocrity in matters of faith. Either we are Catholic, or we are not. If we are then this must be manifested in every aspect of our lives" (Visit to Croatia 7 June 2011). These challenging words are a reminder of the vocation that lies before all of the baptised.

They are an even more sober reminder of the vocation of the bishop, the priest, and the deacon, whose lives must be spent at the service of the faithful, who in turn, having been nourished by Word and Sacrament, will be God's presence in the world, not by way of mediocrity, but with excellence, enthusiasm, and distinction.

My dear people, the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and indeed in each one of us in Broken Bay. As we prepare for the great feast of Pentecost, may we be strong in our faith and confident in our hope as together we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit! Come, light of our hearts. Make us witnesses before the world so that God may be all in all and our joy may be complete.

Amen.

+Anthony