

Fifth Monday of Easter ~ 5/7

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." (John 14: 25-26)

When was the first time that you experienced the movement of the Spirit in your life? Everyone will probably have a different answer to that question. Most of us will answer by reflecting back to the first time that we had a felt experience of the Spirit. It was a time when we may have said to ourselves, "Whoa! That was the Spirit moving" or "I have never had such a clear insight before so it must have come from the Spirit." We remember these extraordinary moments because we are left with the certain knowledge that God was working in our heart. But we would be mistaken to say that any one of these occasions was the first movement of the Spirit.

The day that you added one and one and came up with two was the day that the Spirit moved within you. The day you read your first word, the Spirit moved. The day you took your first step, the day you crawled for the first time and the day that you fussed knowing that it would get you fed, was a movement of the Spirit. Early in life we learn to read faces and we know that the tone of a voice can bring happiness or trouble. Our vocabulary grows by leaps and bounds in the first several years and we learn what each word means and how to use the words in sentences without even looking in a book of grammar. Everything we learn comes from the Holy Spirit.

How often do we miss the grace that the Spirit gives? How often do we get frustrated because we cannot find answers to our questions? We fail to understand that the formulation of the question itself happened because the Spirit was active.

Everything we have learned comes from the Spirit of God. And whether we complete high school or go to Harvard really does not make any difference as long as we continue to use the gifts that we have been given. Our giftedness holds within it the potential to create a more perfect world. We know this because the Spirit has given the gifts and when we use them the world is better. Everything we have and everything that we are has come from the Spirit and every future insight we receive we will receive, through the Spirit. So when did you last experience the Spirit?

Questions for Reflection

- 1. What gift have I received from the Spirit that I never thought to give thanks for before?*
- 2. Can I name a gift that I have used in the last two hours that perhaps I have taken for granted until now?*

Prayer: Spirit of God, thank you for teaching me everything I know. Never let me forget that You enable all learning to happen in my life.