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## The Holy Spirit Is God's Gift To The Whole World

As human beings we tend to be tribal and competitive. Even little children are taught to spot the opposition and to try to beat them and out do them in studies, in sports, and in life. Joshua, who served Moses from his youth, wants to stop Eldad and Medad from prophesying just because they had not gone to the Tent of Meeting with the seventy elders. Moses' response shows a wonderful generosity of spirit and openness of heart. He wishes the whole people - and not just the seventy elders who were in the Tent - to be prophets and to receive the Spirit of God.

The situation in the Gospel is quite similar. John, who was one of the closest companions of Jesus, tries to stop another person from doing something good (casting out devils = destroying the presence of evil) because that person was using the name of his Master. Jesus' answer echoes the sentiments of Moses, **Anyone who is not against us is for us**. The lesson for us today is that the Holy Spirit is God's generous gift to the whole world. We should not be shocked nor should we stop others from doing good just because they are not part of our group. Nobody can claim to possess the Spirit. God's Spirit blows wherever God wills.

We cannot confine or restrict the ways God's Spirit is poured out into the world and into the hearts of everyone. The church, as an institution, is always in danger of becoming competitive and exclusive. Those who do not fall in line with the canons and the catechism are often regarded and treated as outsiders. We, like Joshua and John, are also in danger of becoming self-righteous and intolerant of others who are different.

Moses and Jesus teach us to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit from within and from outside our camp, our community, our church. From them we learn to treat all peoples with deep respect and gratitude because God can and does speak through everyone, not just through us. The world is filled the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. We need only to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to see, understand, and appreciate the good that others are doing. Those who are different from us do not diminish us but enrich us and make us better persons.

Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher to the Pope, says it beautifully, *We are to watch with joy, not with jealousy, the many who prophesy and cast out demons, thus contributing to authentic human development.*

**Reflection by Clement Lee, CSsR**

# Novena notes



26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
 Year B  
 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 30 September	Num 11:25-29; Jm 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48 The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Mon, 1 October St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor	Job 1:6-22; Lk 9:46-50 Turn your ear to me, O Lord; hear my words.
Tue, 2 October The Holy Guardian Angels	Ex 23:20-23; Mt 18:1-5,10 The Lord has commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.
Wed, 3 October	Job 9:1-12,14-16; Lk 9:57-62 Let my prayer come into your presence, O Lord.
Thu, 4 October St. Francis of Assisi	Job 19:21-27; Lk 10:1-12 I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Fri, 5 October Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSsR	1 Thess 2:2-8; Matt 28:16-20 The mouth of the just speaks wisdom.
Sat, 6 October St. Bruno, Priest	Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17; Lk 10:17-24 Let your face shine on your servant, O Lord.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)  
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm  
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)  
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS  
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS  
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION  
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm  
 Mandarin: 2.30pm  
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

# Novena notes

## 5<sup>th</sup> October, Feast of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSSR

Francis Xavier Seelos was born in Fussen, Bavaria on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1819. He studied philosophy at the University of Munich and began theology as a seminarian for the diocesan clergy. After visiting the Redemptorists in Altotting, where he heard of their missionary work in North America, he decided to join them.



With their approval, he set off for the United States in 1843 where he made his novitiate. He made his profession in Baltimore in May 1844 and was ordained priest there in December. His first assignment was to St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh where he served for six years as assistant pastor with (Saint) John Neumann. He then served as superior of the community for three more years.

During this time, he was also the novice master. Father Seelos was always an active and highly successful missionary - particularly devoted to the confessional - and was revered as an exceptional confessor and spiritual director. After a year as assistant pastor in St. Mary's in Detroit, in 1866 he was assigned to the parish of the Assumption in New Orleans, Louisiana as pastor.

There he made a great effort to care for the poor, sick and neglected. While caring for victims of yellow fever, he contracted the disease himself. Only a year after being assigned, he died in New Orleans on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1867. Francis Seelos was beatified in 2000.



### Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

### Hope For Refugees Begins With You

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Singapore is holding an exhibition at the Plaza area, behind the statue of St. Alphonsus.

Come and find out about the courage and perseverance of millions of refugees and how you can help. Take home JRS memorabilia.

### Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be Tagalog Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon.

### Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

### Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

### No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.

