



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

JUNE 4, 2017

Over Memorial Day I spent a couple of days with Cardinal Dolan at his retreat house. We had mass on Monday morning in his private chapel and, instead of a formal homily (since there were just three of us at the mass) we discussed together the readings from the day. Cardinal Dolan commented on the first reading from Acts 19:1-8. It is the story of St. Paul going to Ephesus to one of the new Christian communities. Paul asks these new disciples, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?". They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." To this, the Cardinal made a fascinating point: Paul knew that believing in Christ may be enough for our salvation, but God wants much more for us than just salvation. He wants us to live life in abundance and this is what the Spirit brings. Life in abundance.... do you have that?

This weekend we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation--the reception of the Holy Spirit--of fifty young men and women from our parish. Their preparation included a day-long retreat put on by our High School Youth Group ("Rooted"). The goal of this retreat was to prepare them to receive the Holy Spirit. Just like St. Paul, we reminded these young people that it's not enough to "believe" the Catholic faith. We need to live it, and the only way we can do that is through receiving the power of the Spirit.

God's work in our soul is always a combination of his grace and our "yes". Have all of us said "yes" to the graces that he has given to us? If you aren't yet experiencing "life in abundance", maybe it's time to ask the Holy Spirit to come into your life in a more powerful way. All you have to do is say, with great faith, "Come, Holy Spirit, kindle in me the fire of your love".

**God Bless,
Father Jonathan**

P.S. We thank Bishop John Jenik for being with us this weekend for our Confirmation mass.

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