

- Earlier this week, I answered the phone.
 - Now, this ordinarily does not make news, let alone merit inclusion in a homily, but this was my first time using our new phone system.
 - Our volunteer receptionist transferred the call, telling me who it was and what line, admirably efficient and pastorally polite.
 - I tried to answer it. I touched the blinking button next to the line but only received a dial tone. I hit it again, same response. Again,, same response. So, I did what I always do when there is an emergency or I need something or I have a problem with ANYTHING: LINDA!!!! – Vacation.
 - Hearing the panic in my voice (not because this was such an important call but because I didn't know something so basic which did not bode well for what I am also supposed to know) either Liz or Karen, called out with the instructions telling me to do what I had just done.
 - Then Karen saved the day by rushing into my office and answering the phone – by doing precisely what (thought??!?) I was doing. As soon as I finished the call, I turned to Karen and asked for a user's guide. I made it clear though, that I did not want the Owner's Manual, the big book that explained the whole system, but the User's Guide the brief synopsis that comes with every electronic and digital item from a TV to the crock pot I just bought that has only one knob!

- Then I thought, “Wouldn’t it be great if there was a ‘User’s Guide for the Holy Spirit?’” I wanted a short synopsis along with some ‘Frequently-Asked-Questions’ for what I might need to know?
 - After all, the Owners’ Manual which is extremely useful and necessary but it is too long for a homily and covers so many other areas.
 - I searched on-line for one but the closest I found was something called a “Study Guide for the Holy Spirit” but required a greater share of the Holy Spirit than I had
 - So, I decided to write my own User’s Guide to the Holy Spirit.

A USER’S GUIDE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **PRODUCT OVERVIEW**
- **IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**
- **SET-UP, ENHANCED SET-UP AND ADVANCED SETUP**
- **TOOLS NEEDED**
- **BASIC FEATURES**
- **FAQ’s (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)**
- **PRODUCT REGISTRATION**
- **WARRANTY INFORMATION**
- **WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS**

● **PRODUCT OVERVIEW**

- Congratulations on your Gift of the Holy Spirit. You have now in your possession the most powerful tool in the Universe and Beyond. The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity, co-equal God to the Father and to God the Son, often called the Bond of Love between them.
- The Holy Spirit, whose title comes from the Hebrew *ruah*, which means “breath,” is the same Spirit that God breathed on the chaos and darkness to create the heavens and earth and everything else besides culminating in humanity, man and woman in God’s image. *(For further explanation, please see the opening chapters of the Owner’s Manual, Section: Genesis)*. The Holy Spirit is the same spirit that overshadowed a young girl named Mary and conceived within her the Savior to be called Jesus the Christ. *(For further explanation, please see the Owner’s Manual, Section: Lk.1)*. The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that came down upon Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan *(See Owners’ Manual, Sections: Mt.3; Mk.1; Lk.3; Jn.1)*, led Jesus into the desert where He was tempted *(See Owners’ Manual, Sections: Mt. 4; Mk.1; Lk.4; Jn.1)*, led him to the synagogue to begin His public ministry *(See Owners’ Manual, Section: Lk. 4)* , was given by Jesus from the Cross *(See Owners’ Manual, Sections: Jn 19:30)*.
- This same Spirit was given to the Apostles and Mary after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus *(See Owners’ Manual, Section: Acts 2)*, the anniversary of which is celebrated at Pentecost. The images used there demonstrate the power of

the Spirit you have acquired: both the brute force of the driving wind and the insight and intelligence given to them to proclaim Jesus to all people. *(Please see the important safety instructions listed below.)* The Holy Spirit is now given through the Church for the good of the whole community and is manifested in every color, class, location, and generation. *(Please see information on Registration below.)*

- Your gift of the Holy Spirit will allow you to share in all of these powers listed and bring you to a deeper relationship with God.

- **IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

- The Holy Spirit is a powerful tool. Do not use if lackadaisical, indifferent or only pretending to want a deeper relationship with God. No posers allowed.
- The Holy Spirit, when used properly will change your life, will call you beyond your comfort zone and will lead you to places that may be scary. Do not use if you want to remain complacent or comfortable.
- The Holy Spirit was designed to be used properly only in community. Do not use if you dislike other people or think that they are beneath you.
- You may experience power surges with the Holy Spirit in your capacity to do go, even when it is inconvenient and uncomfortable to do good for another.

- (For further safety instructions, see the Owner's' Manual, especially the sections on instructions of Jesus to sinners (Mt. 7; Mk 4; Luke 6, Jn 3, 4,7, et. al.) and to the Pharisees (Mt.7,15,21; Mk.11; Lk.6,20) and section entitled *Apocalypse*. (Rev.1-22)
- **SET-UP**
 - One of the best features of your gift of the Holy Spirit is the ease of **Setup**.
 - The Holy Spirit is given by God at Baptism. Period. It is a gift and cannot be bought or earned. For baptism outlets near you contact your local church.
 - **Enhanced Setup** can be accomplished through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please see your nearest Catholic Church for more information.
 - Please note that without **Advanced Setup**, your gift of the Holy Spirit will diminish and fade. However, this diminishment can be reversed by restarting **Advanced Setup** at any time. (See section below.)

ADVANCED SETUP

- Even with **Enhanced Setup**, the gift received at Baptism will only work fully and properly when activated fully by **Advanced Setup**.
- **Advanced Setup** requires living and acting like Jesus Christ with the same openness to the Father's Will and the same

willingness to sacrifice. *(For more details see the Gospel Sections in the Owners' Manual.)*

● **TOOLS NEEDED**

- To carry out the **Advanced Setup** and make the best use of your gift of the Holy Spirit you will need the following tools as demonstrated by Jesus:
 - An awareness of the unshakeable love of God for you and a determination to receive and to share that love with others;
 - A willingness to allow God to speak and a willingness to listen and accept what God has to say;
 - A willingness to set aside time for God to speak, including daily quiet time and weekly communal time;
 - An openness to be led where one is not comfortable;
 - A willingness to sacrifice for God and for the other;
 - A willingness to study and learn the Father's Will in the Owners' Manual (not as a literary device to be completed) and in the teachings of the Church (not simply doctrine but the living presence of Christ) seeing both elements as the living Word of God, breathed out for us;
- PLEASE NOTE that the Holy Spirit is already present and working. **Advanced Setup** and/or the **Tools** used do not bring the Spirit. These only set the stage for God to work in the user.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Even an incomplete and imperfect **Advanced Setup**, or faulty tools will still provide increased receptivity of and usability with the Spirit. Do not abandon Advanced Setup even if it is difficult or strenuous.
- **BASIC FEATURES (OFTEN CALLED “GIFTS”)**
Your gift of the Holy Spirit will provide you with increased portions of the following:
 - The Gift of Wisdom – an ability to value spiritual things over worldly ones, enabling the user to desire God and correctly order the things of life and helping the user view the world through God’s perspective and the light of our faith.
 - The Gift of Understanding - helps the user grasp the truths of the faith beyond human intellect which cannot grasp all of God’s mysteries.
 - The Gift of Right Judgment or Counsel – helps to bestow proper judgment on the user, allowing the user to avoid sin and lead a life for Christ.
 - The Gift of Courage - sustains the decision of the user to follow the will of God in any situation, allowing the user to stand up, be strengthened in and defend the faith.
 - The Gift of Knowledge - is an awareness of God’s plan, rather than an accumulation of facts, helping the user to understand God’s purpose and how to respond.
 - The Gift of Reverence - is a willingness in the user to serve God, not merely from duty or obligation, but love and devotion.

- The Gift of Wonder and Awe - makes the user aware of the glory and majesty of God. Formerly called the “Fear of the Lord” which referenced the user’s dread of sin and fear of offending God, this gift increases the user’s desire to draw closer to God, depart from sin and to see God’s glory everywhere and in everyone.

- **FAQ’s (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)**
 - *Why doesn’t my Holy Spirit work? I try to pray but nothing happens - I don’t feel or see any difference? Am I doing something wrong?*
 - PLEASE NOTE WELL: The Holy Spirit does not work on feelings or make a visible difference.
 - The results of **Advanced Setup** may not be noticeable, but if the user demonstrates a willingness and a persistence, better reception can be increased.
 - PLEASE REMEMBER WELL: Persistence is the most important part of **Advanced Setup**. Often times, the Advanced set up is abandoned and forgotten before increased reception is realized.
 - Please see the NOTES above in the section on **Advanced Setup**.
 - How do I know if the Holy Spirit is working?
 - You will see an increase in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

- You will also see a decrease in hatred, rivalry, jealousy, acts of selfishness, immorality, impurity, idolatry and the like.
- *(Please see the Owner's Manual, Section: Galatians 5 for further indications of the Spirit at work.)*
- How can I increase my reception of the Holy Spirit?
 - Repeat the Advanced Setup.
 - Increase use of the **Tools Needed For Setup** taking particular time with the daily quiet prayer and the public communal prayer, especially the Eucharist.
 - Ask God for more help. *(See below.)*
- **PRODUCT REGISTRATION**
 - Please remember that, while the Holy Spirit is given to any and all who ask and freely in Baptism, it can only be fully used in community.
 - Register your gift of the Spirit (and that of your whole family) by registering at your local parish.
 - Join the frequent user's club which includes such benefits as greater ease in **Advanced Set-up**, more instructions and assistance with the *Owner's Manual* (especially through the sacraments) as well as other exciting club opportunities.
- **WARRANTY INFORMATION**

- Remember that your Gift of the Holy Spirit is given for life. It does come with an eternal warranty but can only be exchanged in the afterlife for the full vision of the God who sent it.
- Feel free to call on God with any questions or see God’s local representatives at your nearest Church.

We hope that this User Guide has been helpful. Enjoy your gift of the Holy Spirit. Frequent use of this gift will lead you to “Go and make disciples.”

- **STILL NEED HELP?** Call on God because He cares for you.
(See the Owner’s Manual, Section 1 Peter 5.)