

Pastor's Note July 25-26, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When one gives their life to Jesus Christ is Lord, the intimacy one experiences is amazing. When I was 15 1/2 years of age I had a profound religious experience that changed my life. When I woke the next morning after that experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, the first words out of my mouth, which were the first words that came to my mind, were "Good morning Jesus". That was pretty amazing for a guy that had pretty much a mouth like a salty sailor and had been living an excessively rebellious life as a teen.

I found as I was hanging out with more serious or "intentional" disciples of Jesus that I started talking about my relationship with Christ in a much more intimate sense. It was as though I was in a dialogue with the Lord. I started interpreting the signs in my life, things I encountered during the day and people I met, as ways that God was speaking to me. And I interpreted those events as the Lord giving me a "leading". I wanted to do what God wanted me to do. I wanted to surrender daily my heart my life my soul an my every so to his direction. I wanted to live for Jesus because I was tired of living for myself.

The scriptures became a living word to me. It was as though the Lord was speaking to me and saying "Don I want you to do this or that." The scriptures I read became absolutely a personal message to me. And I took them very seriously. As I continued to walk this new way of living, I wanted to know more about Jesus. I wanted to know more about what he taught. I wanted to know more about the Church he founded. And so, I began reading books about Catholic faith, and about people who live that faith. I took up a wonderful book on the life of Saint Francis called "the little Flowers of Saint Francis." I was enamored by the nostalgic stories of how Saint Francis walked through his life in the company of his God all the time. I was enamored of how he walked with Our Lady and listened to her counsel. I was also thrilled with the idea of being that close to God.

As I have gone through my life, I've become so accustomed to walking with the Lord, that the ideas that come to me I count as inspirations of the Holy Spirit. When I may have a homily ready to go, I get an inkling that maybe I should change what I am going to preach about to this congregation at this time. And because I have done so much reading, the material is right at hand. I think God works with me that way a lot. This is not to say that my every thought is something inspired by God. It is not. And I am not so simplistic is to think that I do not have any role in what I'm doing. But today, as then I still try to do what I believe God is asking me to do. I was talking to Pastor John Noffske this morning and we were talking about being spirit LED. We were talking about how we tried to do it get what we think God wants us to do and how we are not so proud is to think that are every action is spirit LED. But we do find, often The God takes our feeble attempts and makes them into something interesting.

This is something I want for each of you: to be able to walk with this kind of an immediately and intensely close relationship with the Lord. God will come into your heart if you turn yourself over to him. And when you do this, He will make things better than you could ever imagine than being just coming from yourself.