



Roots & Wings

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Right Judgment

The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of Right Judgment (also called the gift of Counsel) so that we may judge what acts are good and ought to be done, and which are evil and ought to be avoided. In other words, this gift helps us in situations to ask ourselves “Will this act or decision lead us closer to God and eternal life with Him, or not?” (Saunders 2003). There are so many situations we face that we need the Holy Spirit’s help and guidance to make the morally right decision.

The gift of Right Judgment is the "heavenly floodlight" that helps us look at our history, our motivations, our talents and our desires in the face of important decisions. It helps us take

our egos and other obstacles out of the decision-making process. (Haas, 2001)

The gift of Right Judgment is linked to the virtue of prudence, which is making good decisions using reason enlightened by our faith. While the gift of Right Judgment can guide our reasoning in our decision-making, the Holy Spirit’s counsel may also guide us in ways that reason may not readily explain. We can experience the Holy Spirit’s guidance as if the answer has dropped into our minds (Most 1994). For example, the

martyrdom of some saints, such as Maximilian Kolbe who sacrificed his life in a Nazi concentration camp, does not follow the “rational” course of self-preservation (Saunders 2003). Indeed, following God does not always make sense to the secular world. The Holy Spirit’s gift of Right Judgment and practicing the virtue of prudence makes us receptive to God and directs our actions toward holiness as well as eternal life.

Works Cited:

Haas, Albert and Bridget (2001). *Enkindled: Holy Spirit, Holy Gifts*. St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Most, Father William (1994). “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” The Catholic Resource Network: Trinity Communications. www.ewtn.com. Accessed 6/28/04.

Saunders, Father William (2003). “Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” *Arlington Catholic Herald*. www.catholiceducation.org. Accessed 6/28/04.

Understanding

Understanding is a gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to grasp God’s truths that we already believe more easily. According to St. Anselm in his attempt to prove the existence of God, “I do not seek to understand in order that I believe, but I believe in order that I may understand.” In other words, our faith in God enables us to understand and grasp God’s love and plan for us. We need this gift so that we can further learn about our faith as we go through life (Apostoli 1999).

The gift of understanding operates in several ways. It helps us to understand Scripture, and reveals the significance of symbols and figures in the Bible and our faith tradition. In addition, understanding enables us to see how God works in our lives, even in the most difficult times of suffering. Finally, this gift reveals to us the spiritual realities that underlie sensible appearances (Saunders 2003). For example, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the sacrament of the Eucharist—how the bread and wine becomes the body and the blood of Christ. Like the gift of knowledge, the gift of understanding strengthens the virtue of faith. When we experience this gift, we grow in our faith and become closer to God.

Sources cited:

Apostoli, CFR, Andrew (1999). *The Advocate: The Spirit of Truth in the Life of the Individual Christian*. New York: Alba House.

Saunders, Father William (2003). “Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” *Arlington Catholic Herald*. www.catholiceducation.org. Accessed 6/28/04.

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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wonder and Awe

Reverence

Knowledge

Courage

Right Judgment

Understanding

Wisdom

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Why Do We Do That?



Did you ever wonder where the tradition of Easter Eggs comes from? It is most-likely a pagan tradition meant to symbolize earth being reborn each spring. Christianity adapted this custom to symbolize the rebirth of humanity through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Catholic history, the use of eggs was

forbidden during Lent. They were brought to the table on Easter Day, colored red to symbolize the Easter joy.

Sources:

The Catholic Encyclopedia at www.newadvent.org/cathen/05224d.htm accessed March 8, 2004

The University of Kansas at www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/easter.html accessed March 8, 2004

Prayer for Counsel

O Spirit of Counsel,
faced with difficult decisions,
I have often chosen the candlelight of hidden
motives and wrong reasons.
To stand in counsel's floodlight,
seemed to blinding for my weak vision.
With your grace as a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path,
illuminate the crossroads of my life
so that my choices reflect realistic dreams
and radiate a future of hope.
May your gift of counsel enable me to
abandon to your mercy
my past poor decisions,
abide confidently in the present
and become more available to others
as we journey together toward the dawn.
I ask this blessing in the name of Jesus,
Light of the World.

Amen

(Haas, Albert and Bridget: Enkindled: Holy Spirit, Holy Gifts)

Prayer for the Year

An Offering To The Holy Child

O Dear sweet Infant Jesus,
I offer You my will that You strengthen it,
my mind that You inspire it,
my memory that You fill it,
my wishes and desires that You cleanse them.
I sacrifice to You my intentions
that You guide them,
all my inner and outer activities
that You make them sacred.
All I am and all I have is Yours.
Your love for me is my hope and trust.
Hear me and grant that
I may never leave you.
Amen.

Media Management for Teens

The Catholic Life Committee recently received this list of guidelines (which we've condensed) written by Fr. Michael Sliney. The main purpose is to protect the purity and integrity of teens, as well as to improve their personal interaction while promoting accountability for the content they are absorbing on a day-to-day basis.



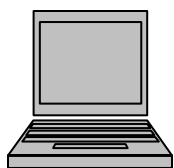
Cell Phones

- Texting should be used to send quick info or scheduling but not as a substitute for personal conversation with friends and family. Virtual contact should not overshadow personal relationships.
- Hierarchy of Communication: 1) Face-to-Face, 2) Phone, 3) Internet or Texting



TV/Movies/Video Games

- Less is better
- Check out movies and games for family using websites such as: Common Sense Media, Screen-It, Kids-in-Mind, Plugged-In, Christian Spotlight (MPAA Ratings are not always accurate)
- No channel surfing, know what you want to watch before starting



Internet/Computer Use

- Install strong internet filters that prevent inappropriate content (Net Nanny, CyberSITTER, Familink, Safe Eyes, BSafe Online, CyberPatrol)
- Place family computer in public area with large monitor for accountability
- Limit non-academic internet time



Facebook

- "Friends" should be people you know and trust: Facebook is for connecting with friends not for making new ones.
- Avoid posting anything that you wouldn't want to be seen by your college admissions director, your future employer, or your future spouse
- Facebook (or other social networking sites) should not be used before high school



I-Pods (Music)

- Be very much aware of the underlying message in the music your kids listen to, both in the lyrics and in the music itself (rhythm, sound, etc.). If your kids are attracted to music that promotes immoral/sexual behavior or that has dark or Satanic undertones, analyze it with them so that they understand why they are not allowed to listen to it.

"There are two lasting bequests
we can hope to give our children.

One is roots,
the other wings."

Hodding Carter II

