

*What about the Holy Spirit today?*

When we hear about the great actions of the Holy Spirit during the early days of Christianity, we are tempted to wonder why we don't see these miraculous happenings in our Church today. Over the years some theologians have tried to explain this by saying these extraordinary gifts were meant only to get the Church started. This, however, is not the teaching of the Catholic Church. (CCC 2003)

Jesus Himself tells us, (Jn. 14:12) that through our ministry He would be confirming the Good News we tell people. He promised to do this with even greater wonders than He did in Bible times. If we are not seeing so much evidence of the Holy Spirit, perhaps it is because we are not spreading the Good News about Jesus. We are failing to tell people that Jesus is alive in His Church, just waiting to confer His salvation on the entire world.

How many people are in danger of hell because we Catholics are only interested in our own salvation? What sort of salvation can we expect if we are not interested in God's reason for having baptized people on earth today?

Jesus did not allow His disciples to begin the Church until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. (Acts 1: 4-5) So also with us. Without the power of the Holy Spirit there is no Church. Without the Holy Spirit the Church, a parish or a family is nothing but a lifeless crowd.

The Holy Spirit today is even more important than in the early Church. We do not know when Jesus will come again on the clouds of glory, but surely we are closer to that day than the early Church was. It is our job as Catholics to prepare the world for Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to empower us and to confirm our work with gifts and wonders.