

SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC EXECUTIVES

MAY 19 BREAKFAST MEETING

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Apostolic Executive Mission Statement: Educate, guide and inspire business owners and executives to live the GIFTS and Fruits of the HOLY SPIRIT in their business decisions and actions.

The Holy Spirit is present within us by virtue of our Baptism, when we were anointed with the Spirit. The power of the Spirit is intensified in the Sacrament of Confirmation when the Seven Gifts of the Spirit are explicitly transmitted to us. **From Isaiah 11:2, the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom (sapientia), Understanding (intellectus), Counsel (consilium), Fortitude (fortitudo), Knowledge (scientia), Piety (pietas), and Fear of the Lord (timor Domini) [Septuagint and Vulgate Bibles; see also, CCC paragraphs 1830-1831].** Isaiah 11:2 of the New American Bible does not include Piety. It lists wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude (strength/courage), knowledge and fear of the Lord.

It is the **GIFT OF WISDOM** that provides us with God's view of things, a kind of divine perspective on reality that penetrates through events and perceives the divine presence and action at work, even in tragic and painful situations. The Gift of Wisdom is the source of the Beatitude of the Peacemakers, those who have established peace within themselves and who have ordered their own great variety of faculties into a unity that submits to God's direction and inspiration. They are also able to establish peace around them—whether it be in their families, communities, or the workplace.

This is the peace Jesus speaks of as “not of this world.” Once established in this peace, we can be a source of peace to others. Hence the beatitude: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Wisdom is a gift the Holy Spirit gives to man, to enable him to understand and use wisely the good things given by grace of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom enables us to use our talents to understand, love and remember God above everything we do.

Wisdom helps us to love the world properly, as the creation of God. Knowing the proper ordering of the material and spiritual worlds through wisdom, we can more easily bear the burdens of this life and respond to our fellow man with charity and patience.

See "Catholic Dictionary, Revised" (Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. 2002 Huntington, Indiana) pgs. 349, 763; also, Thomas Keating, "Fruits and GIFTS of the SPIRIT," (Lantern Books 2007 NY, NY) pgs. 13, 101-108.