

Second Hand Preacher

Pentecost

June 4, 2017

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Remember taking career tests when you were in school? You would answer a whole bunch of questions based on your interests. I think for me Pastor/Clergy came up along with zookeeper and librarian. Actually it is a bit fuzzy, but at 14 years old none of my choices seemed all that exciting. So I chose to write a report on being an All Star Wrestler. I had made the varsity that year. I was trying to combine interest with skill and I don't think I did very well. The point is we all have gifts. Some we are born with and many we develop over time.

St. Paul makes some powerful statements about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit allows us to say, "Jesus is Lord." The members of the Corinthian community were prized followers of Jesus. Paul wants them to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well. He wanted to let them know that even though the gifts are different, the Spirit is the same. All of the gifts are helping to build the Christian community in Corinth. Even though they are facing persecution, their faith in the Spirit will help them on their goal of building the Body of Christ. Corinth was a bustling port city with many distractions, but Paul knew the Spirit had the power to help them endure.

Our community isn't much different from Corinth. There are so many distractions in this world that many of our people have been drawn away from our community. My heart aches when I hear of people wanting to leave rather than use their gifts in the community. On the contrary, my heart sings when I see the Spirit in action. There are so many good people coming forward to use the many gifts of the Spirit. We as a Catholic community embrace each other when we do the next right thing. We support each other in times of sin and loss. We encourage each other to seek help and forgiveness from members of our community. May the Spirit guide us on this feast of Pentecost and for all time as well.