



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: The Rosary
Part IX: Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Pentecost
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Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions, because I have been told that is the beginning to learning, so I thought I would try it for a change. To answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially, dear Lord, for the silent suffering, those battling despair, and those who carry wounds of sorrow in their heart. We pray, dear Lord, that You will touch their hearts and grant them the strength of hope as well as the knowledge of Your grace, mercy, and love.

We pray too, dear Lord, for Your healing hand to rest upon Lori's mother, Peggy's husband, and Frank, as well as Your hand of comfort; that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall rest upon all those who love and care for them.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can also listen to Armor of Faith Radio on demand and on the go using your smartphone. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. If you find an episode or series, which caused you to take a moment and think and you would like to share with family or friends, you only need to copy the URL of the show to which you are listening and drop it into an email or share it through social media. You can also share the URL <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith> and identify the episode number or numbers you would like to share. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so please help us to spread the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Event Announcements:

40 Days for Life: The 40 Days for Life 2020 Spring Campaign kicked off last week, 26 Feb, and will run through 5 Apr 2020. It is still not too late to sign up to help. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the 40 Days for Life website at: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> to learn about how you may support this Spring's campaign. Even if you are not able to come to the sidewalk, prayer is powerful and always necessary, and there are so many ways to help through Pregnancy Resource, Support, and Advocacy Centers and organizations.

If you would like to learn more about training for sidewalk advocates, prayer partners, or other means by which You can assist with the effort to defend life, check your local 40 Days for Life web site. The national web site, <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>, can help you find an organization near you.

WCAT Radio Fund Raiser: WCAT Radio, the organization through which this and a variety of kindred Catholic radio shows are presented, is conducting a funding drive to help address the costs of operation and production. WCAT Radio presents two dozen hours of new, quality, Catholic programming each week and offers over 5,000 hours of archived programming in

history, theology, spirituality, and poetry for the purpose of promoting the Catholic spiritual journey — a virtual audio library of our Catholic faith. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to WCAT Radio to enable them to continue to broadcast the Catholic message. You can donate online at <https://wcatradio.com/support>. Any amount you can contribute, will help the mission to evangelize the Gospel.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Howdy! We have now survived one whole week of Lent. How is it going? We still have a few more weeks of this time of penance and prayer, so let us look at a few more ways to clean out our souls and bring us further into the joys of living with Jesus.

Fasting means to give something up. **Alms Giving** means to do something extra. **Prayer Time** means to pray.

Let us take a look at giving something up. Of course, this is conditioned to our age and ability.

Adults might consider giving up alcohol, or skipping a meal a day, or not drinking coffee, or not eating sweets or desserts. How about giving up things such as social media, gossiping, or consolidating trips to doctors, stores, libraries and not making sooo many trips.

Children might consider giving up candy, sodas, desserts. Another good give up would be arguing with siblings. Obeying your parents with a cheerful heart and disposition works well also.

Alms giving – doing something extra. And just like fasting, this is dependent upon age, and ability.

Adults might make the effort to go to daily Mass during Lent and offering this time for the souls in purgatory. Perhaps you can find time to help with the cleaning and decorating of the church. There is a lot of moving things around during the season of Lent. How about visiting a friend you have not seen in quite some time, or someone in the hospital or nursing home. Maybe you know of someone who needs a little help with child care so they can go grocery shopping. Make time to listen. We all know someone who is depressed and would like for one person to be their friend and confidant for a few minutes. Pick up the phone and call someone who you have not spoken with in a while. Send a generous donation to a charity which is doing work that you appreciate, but really cannot put into your schedule at the moment.

Children can find ways to do extra chores at home to help someone else out. Mom's love for their children to help. Dad's really appreciate when things are done for them. What about being a friend to someone at school who may not have many friends? Write a letter to an aunt or uncle or grand parent.

Be extra kind to people around you – your brothers, sisters, parents, classmates. Everyone wants to be liked and your kindness would go a long way in making someone else feel liked. Even something as easy as a smile can make someone's day go from ho-hum to joyful in a flash.

And then there is prayer time. This is something we all need to do and especially during Lent. Pray the Rosary daily and meditate on the mysteries of Christ. Spend a few moments in Adoration with Jesus. Participate when the church has Stations of the Cross. Read a book about Jesus and His Apostles. Learn about your patron saint. Ask God to help you forgive some person or act that has hurt you badly.

Give compliments to people who help you or make you happy. Say a prayer before every meal. Pray before you get out of bed each morning and before going to bed at night. Thank Him for giving you a restful sleep and for allowing you to wake in the morning. Thank Him for all the blessings of our day. Married people, pray for your spouse. Your prayers give strength for life's hardships. Children pray for your family and friends that they may see the joys in their lives. Jesus enjoys our visits with Him. Tell Him about your joys and sorrows. He really wants to hear from you.

If you can give up only a few small things, give something extra to others around you, and pray during this Lent, I promise you that when Easter arrives, you will have joy in your heart like you have never known before. This is what I call cleaning house – the house is your soul, your being, your mind and your heart. Clean out the ravages of daily living and let in the cool breezes of the Holy Spirit. God bless each of you on this journey.

You may have noticed that many of these suggestions are things we should already be part of our daily life, but Lent is an opportunity to make an extra effort so that perhaps, we might make such things a habit.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

Discussion:

Last time, I mentioned we would have a challenge getting through the mystery of the “descent of the Holy Spirit” within the confines of our time. Perhaps the legendary story of Saint Augustine and the boy attempting to put the ocean into a hole with a seashell might reveal a little as to why, once more, we barely scratched to what just one mystery of the Rosary might lead our hearts.

Of course, as we mentioned with the mysteries we already discussed, we are not going to follow the entire path to which the Rosary draws us within the average 15 minutes in which we may pray one chaplet of five mysteries. As I pointed out, this reveals to us that the Angelic Psalter is a journey which reveals portions of the mysteries to our hearts as we pray and as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our path of this ultimate treasure map. If we are to receive the fullness of those mysteries, we should pray the Rosary regularly and we should ask the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts to what He desires for us to see and understand.

If we look at how the Rosary has led hearts over the centuries, we see saints, popes, doctors of the church, priests, and so many lay people speak of how the Rosary has opened their hearts and led them on the journey of their faith. The Rosary is a conversation by which we may open our

hearts to learn and a conversation by which we may lift up our praise, thanks, and petitions for God's undeserved help, also known as His grace. The worship we express through the Rosary is for God alone. Still, in our iniquities, we ask our Blessed Mother to pray for us. Let us also listen to her as she calls us to, "*Do whatever He tells you,*" as she told the servers at the wedding at Cana. (cf. John 2:5)

We should consider too, when I mention the Rosary is the ultimate treasure map, it is a means by which the treasures of our faith are revealed within our hearts. It is also a means by which we may discern the gifts which the Holy Spirit imparts to each person as He wishes (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:11). In other words, as we pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, we should also listen in our hearts for what God desires we do with the gifts and talents He created within us.

Today, as we continue to discuss the Glorious Mystery of the "descent of the Holy Spirit," our discussion will turn to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we might allow the Rosary to lead us in discernment of those gifts and how we may put them to the purpose God desires so His will may be done.

(Question 1: Before we can discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I guess we should look to identify them. So, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, specifically paragraph 1831, what are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how many are there?)

(CCC: 1831)

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.

So, as we list them, they are:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

In the footnote to CCC: 1831, we are referred to Isaiah 11.

(Isaiah 11:2-3)

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

A spirit of counsel and of strength,

a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD [piety],

3 and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

(Footnote to Isaiah 11:2, NABRE: The source of the traditional names of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Septuagint and the Vulgate read “piety” for “fear of the Lord” in its first occurrence, thus listing seven gifts.)

Now, while we refer to these as the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we look to Isaiah 11:2-3 for that list, and in the counting (with a little help of parsing linguistics) we observe seven, we should also reflect on what Saint Paul relates to us in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; 5 there are different forms of service but the same Lord; 6 there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 7 To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; 10 to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

If we compare this list with the seven of Isaiah, we observe:

Kinds of Spiritual Gifts

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Mighty Deeds
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Varieties of Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

(Question 2: When we see one list presented in the Old Testament, and another in the New, we might ask ourselves about the difference. What might the differences in the two lists reveal to us and what might that reveal to us about the gifts of the Holy Spirit?)

Let's continue with our examination of 1 Corinthians 12.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

12 *As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.*

14 Now *the body is not a single part, but many. 15 If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. 16 Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." 22 Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, 23 and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, 24 whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. 26 If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.*

(Question 3: Of course, we could do a whole episode discussing just this passage of scripture, but our time is limited, so I am just going to ask about the high level. What does this passage of scripture reveal to us about the spiritual gifts and where we fit within the body of Christ?)

(1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

27 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. 28 Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.*

(Question 4: Again, we see a list of examples, some overlapping with previous examples, but also reiterating the many parts, in an order of sorts, along with encouragement to strive for the greatest spiritual gifts. As we reflect on this passage, what does the encouragement to strive for the greatest spiritual gifts mean in relation to Saint Paul's statement, "I shall show you a still more excellent way?" How might this influence our discernment of the gifts the Holy Spirit distributes to each person as He wishes as we are told in 1 Corinthians 12:11? What might that more excellent way be?)

(Luke 12:48B)

*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and **still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.***

(Matthew 25:29-30)

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

There is so much more we could discuss about what the descent of the Holy Spirit means to us, for example, the fruits of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, but if we consider the story of the boy attempting to pour the ocean into a hole using a seashell, well, let's just say we opened the door and we invite you to continue to explore and allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide.

(Question 5: So, we turn to the last two mysteries of the Glorious Mysteries. The fourth mystery of the Glorious Mysteries is commonly referred to as the "The Assumption." To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

(Exodus 20:12)

*12 **Honor your father and your mother;** that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

(John 19:26-27)

*26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "**Woman, behold, your son.**" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "**Behold, your mother.**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.*

(Psalm 16:10)

*For **you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let your devout one see the pit.***

(1 Thessalonians 4:14-16)

*14 For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.** 15 Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself, **with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.***

(Question 6: The fifth mystery of the Glorious Mysteries is commonly referred to as the "The Coronation." To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

(Jeremiah 29:2)

2 *This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans and smiths had left Jerusalem.*

(Revelation 12:1-17)

1 *A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.* 2 *She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.* 3 *Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems.* 4 *Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.* 5 *She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.* 6 *The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.*

7 *Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.* 9 *The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.*

10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:*

*“Now have salvation and power come,
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed.*

*For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who accuses them before our God day and night.*

11 *They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.*

12 *Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
and you who dwell in them.*

*But woe to you, earth and sea,
for the Devil has come down to you in great fury,
for he knows he has but a short time.”*

13 *When the dragon saw that it had been thrown down to the earth, it pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.* 14 *But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle [symbology of divine assistance], so that she could fly to her place in the desert, where, far from the serpent, she was taken care of for a year, two years, and a half-year.* 15 *The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the current.* 16 *But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth and swallowed the flood that the dragon spewed out of its mouth.* 17 *Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus.*

(**Note:** As we reflect on this account of the spiritual warfare traversing heaven and earth and the wrath of the dragon [Satan] against the woman [Mary], we might expect, as a tactic of “divide and conquer,” that the evil one would attempt to present Mary as a roadblock to our meditation of the mysteries of the Rosary, for she is the one, in concert with her child, who calls priests to preach the Angelic Psalter (cf. Monfort, 15, 20) so we may meditate on its mysteries, and she is the one who calls us to the Sacred Heart of her Holy Son, the only begotten Son of God.)

We should consider also:

(Luke 1:35)

35 And the angel said to her in reply, “*The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.*”

(Revelation 17:14)

They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Don't we think the King of kings and Lord of lords would not want His mother, the Queen Mother, to be with Him and among those He protects?

Quotes:

(Galatians 5:18-26)

18 But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, 21 occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit. 26 Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.

– Jesus in a vision to Saint Dominic as told by Blessed Alan de la Roche

“Dominic, I rejoice to see that you are not relying on your own wisdom and that, rather than seek the empty praise of men, you are working with great humility for the salvation of souls.

“But many priests want to preach thunderously against the worst kinds of sin at the very outset, failing to realize that before a sick person is given bitter medicine, he needs to be prepared by being put into the right frame of mind to really benefit from it.

“That is why, before doing anything else, priests should try to kindle a love of prayer in people’s hearts and especially a love of my Angelic Psalter. If only they would all start saying it and would really persevere, God in His mercy could hardly refuse to give them His grace. So, I want you to preach my Rosary.”

Final Thoughts:

As we galloped through the mysteries of the Rosary, we pray you found something here or there you would like to explore further. That is part of the purpose of the prayer and the index which the mysteries provide as a means to draw us to deeper understanding of our faith, the sacrifice made for us, and the blessings to which Jesus calls us. As we allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide, He will draw our attention, during the course of our meditation, to what our heart needs. Of course, the Holy Spirit may lead us, but we are the ones who must decide to drink.

During the course of our discussion, we have only hit the highlights. If we listen to the Word during the Liturgy of the Mass, are blessed with priests who preach this Angelic Psalter, and spend our own time following the threads of scripture, we will begin to observe the untearable cloth which God reveals through the fabric of scripture and the good news of the Gospel to which He draws us as we meditate upon the mysteries of the Rosary.

As we began our discussion of the mysteries, we began with the Annunciation, where an angel of God told Mary, *“The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”* (Luke 1:35). As we follow the mysteries to bring the Life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior into our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to guide our meditation to comprehend the sacrifice made for us and the blessings to which our Lord and Savior calls us, we will also find our hearts drawn closer and closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let us listen to His Mother as she says, *“Do whatever he tells you.”* (cf. John 2:5) Let us also listen for the *“light, silent sound”* of God. (cf. 1 Kings 19:12)

As we sped through the mysteries, you may have noticed we didn't always start at the beginning or follow all of the threads to the end. This is because there is so much within the Rosary in which we might immerse our hearts. Though we continue to gallop through all the Rosary offers, we hope everyone will find an opportunity in their day to reflect on our discussions, then, begin your own leisurely stroll through the Rosary and its garden of love.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to the prayers which open our hearts to our meditation of the mysteries.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: The Rosary – Part X: The Opening Prayers

Discussion References:

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