

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MEANING

① THE GIFTS CORRESPOND IN THE ORDER OF GRACE TO OUR NATURAL INSTINCTS OF MIND AND WILL

② THE GIFTS PROVIDE SUPERNATURAL HELP

- WISDOM AGAINST FOLLY
- UNDERSTANDING AGAINST DULLNESS
- KNOWLEDGE AGAINST IGNORANCE
- COUNSEL AGAINST RASHNESS
- FORTITUDE AGAINST FEARS
- PIETY AGAINST HARDNESS OF HEART
- FEAR OF GOD AGAINST PRIDE

③ THE GIFTS ARE SUPERNATURAL REFLEXES OR REACTIVE INSTINCTS THAT SPONTANEOUSLY ANSWER TO THE DIVINE IMPULSES OF GOD'S GRACE, WHEN GOD SENDS US SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATIONS FOR THE MIND AND INSPIRATIONS FOR THE WILL

ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

- I. WISDOM: FIRST OF THE GIFTS, HIGHEST IN DIGNITY, MAKES THE SOUL RESPONSIVE TO H. SPIRIT IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF DIVINE THINGS
- II. UNDERSTANDING: ENLIGHTENS THE MIND TO GRASP REVEALED TRUTHS EASILY AND PROFOUNDLY. GIVES INSIGHT INTO THE MEANING OF WHAT WE BELIEVE
- III. KNOWLEDGE: ENABLES US TO JUDGE EVERYTHING FROM A SUPERNATURAL VIEWPOINT. HELPS US PASS IMMEDIATE JUDGEMENT ON CREATURES.
- IV. COUNSEL: PERFECTS THE VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE. ENLIGHTENS US HOW TO DECIDE HERE AND NOW - FIRST FOR OURSELVES AND THEN FOR OTHERS
- V. FORTITUDE: GOES BEYOND THE VIRTUE IN CARRYING TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS. TWO FORMS
 - COURAGE TO UNDERTAKE DIFFICULT LABORS FOR GOD
 - COURAGE TO UNDERGO THE SUFFERING EXPERIENCED IN SERVING GOD
- VI. PIETY: SUPPLEMENTS JUSTICE IN SHOWING REVERENCE FOR GOD AND HONOR TO OTHERS AS REPRESENTING GOD
- VII. FEAR OF THE LORD: FILIAL FEAR OF OFFENDING A LOVING GOD. ENABLES US TO CONTROL AND ELEVATE ALL LESSER FEARS.