8.

Gifted by the Spirit

SRL AND THE BAGAMOYO CHAPTER

❖ Each confrere, according to the gifts he has from the Spirit, has a role to fulfil in his community’s organization, life and mission (SRL 43)

❖ Spiritan community is the privileged place for listening to the Spirit and for living in fidelity to our vocation and mission. Here all are called to live the religious vows, which are unambiguous values, in a coherent manner supported by a deep spiritual life. The witness of community life is the primary form of evangelization and of experiencing God (Bagamoyo 4.1).
PRAYER

Almighty and ever living God, giver of all that is good, you promised us the gift of your Spirit and fulfilled it on the first Pentecost Day. We your children, humbly beg you to infuse into us the divine person of the Holy Spirit. Send him into us that we might be renewed. May we experience him now as on the day of Pentecost so that our faith might be strengthened and we will be inspired to bear witness for Christ in the Church, through the testimony of our word and life and the practice of our religious calling. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAINT PAUL

First Letter to the Corinthians (12: 4-11)

There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God’s message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said.

But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.
Our Lord will impart the most abundant gifts of his Holy Spirit who will so fill us with his holiness, his power and all the other graces he contains, which are ours for the asking. These gifts will so greatly fill us that we will overflow with them being unable to contain them. And by means of these gifts rivers of grace will flow from us which will spread around and produce excellent fruits of holiness in a multitude of souls. These will be refreshed, satiated, inundated by rivers of grace flowing from us. Not only shall we have life in ourselves, but from us will issue rivers of this sacred water bringing life to countless souls.

By the “rivers of living water” which were to flow from those who believed in him, our Lord intended the Holy Spirit, which was to be given to all who believe in him in this way. This does not mean that the Apostles and other faithful disciples had not got the Holy Spirit before our Lord’s Passion.
They were in the state of grace, and every soul in the state of grace has the Holy Spirit.

But our Lord was speaking of that extraordinary and perfect mission of the Holy Spirit, which is already in the soul through Baptism. By perfect faith in a soul, our Lord perfects and develops his gifts and favors, and this he does as a result of this particular mission.

These gifts of the Holy Spirit had great importance in the early days of the Church; they were very common and produced innumerable conversions. They flowed from almost all Christians like rivers, and still today all the saints have these graces, that is, all souls who give themselves completely and perfectly to our Lord with the generosity and perfection of faith that the divine Master desires. They leave everything to cling to our Lord alone, the only fountain of living water. In all such souls we shall find highly developed gifts and graces that our Lord promises here. Such gifts were received by the first Christians.

*Commentary on John’s Gospel II. 130, 131.*

**PRAYER**

Almighty ever-living God, out of infinite love, you created the world and filled it with your Spirit. You gave us a bountiful world filled with beauty and goodness. You placed us in this world to care for it in the joy of communion with you.

In the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you renewed the face of the earth and made all things new. You conquered evil, poured out your love, and opened for all men and women the path to your kingdom.

May we rise with Christ to newness of life!

May his Spirit transform the evil around us to good.

Heal our broken relationships, turn our hearts firmly to you, and conquer the powers of evil in us and in the world.
Grant us a heart that respects the dignity of all life – the unborn and the vulnerable, the homeless and the trafficked.

Heavenly Father, give us the grace to recognize your Spirit dwelling in each of us and so appreciate the gift we are to one another.

Rid us of evil thoughts and make us see all men and women as brothers and sisters. Help us to create a joyful community that embraces mercy, love, peace and service in humility and charity.

Unite us and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus Christ, and in the power of your Holy Spirit who gives life. Amen.