



30 Apr - 4 May, 2019

Counsel

**'For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'** Isaiah 9:6

The Gift of Counsel

- † The gift of Counsel enlightens the conscience in moral choices in our daily life

Pope Francis' reflections on the Holy Spirit's gift of Counsel

- † Detachment: 'through it we learn to be docile to the Lord rather than attached to our own ideas'
- † Counsel is a gift. And gifts are freely given. It is through detachment that one can have hold of the gift of Counsel
- † Renewal: 'It illuminates our heart and makes us more sensitive to the voice of the Spirit, so that we do not get carried away in our thoughts, feelings and intentions by selfishness or our own way of looking at things, but by the will of God'
- † Carrying the mind of Christ: 'Counsel is the gift with which the Holy Spirit helps us to make decisions in our concrete lives, following the logic of Jesus and His Gospel'
- † His will be done: Through it 'God enlightens our hearts and directs our thoughts, words and actions in accordance with His saving will'

Counsel in the shape of the Cross

- † We need to have the Father as our Counsel, so that we may be able to put into practice the gift of the Counsel towards others

Counsel leads us to become Christ-like

- † By the gift of Counsel, we see all things with the eyes of Christ
- † It leads us to conform more and more to Jesus, as a model of our actions and our relation with God, and with our brothers'

What can we do to be more docile to this gift of Counsel?

- † The essential condition is prayer and detachment

The gift of Counsel and freedom

- † Making a choice is at the heart of human freedom (unlike animals)
- † The gift of Counsel leads one to be free and hence have God's plan fulfilled in his life

The gift of Counsel is the base of Wisdom

- † The gift of Counsel helps us in discerning and the basic purpose in discernment is to know the will of God in specific situations. In other words, 'What would Jesus do?' in this or that situation

The gift of Counsel in times of trouble (Rom 8:35, 38,39)

- † The Holy Spirit intercedes and removes hesitation in decision-making when the decision is in conformity with God's will
- † He enlightens the tiniest events in our ordinary life and protects us from falling into sin and wrong decisions
- † The Holy Spirit allows for us to absorb and to assimilate the meaning of the tribulations that we go through and filters our mind from worldly considerations and leads us to direct our attention to God and to seek His Counsel

The gift of Counsel brings to a right judgment (Mat 10:19)

- † When the elders of Israel were in a hurry to execute Susanna, the woman who was accused of adultery; it was the wisdom of Daniel that saved her (*Suzanna or Daniel 13*)
 - Susanna prayed, *'Eternal God, nothing can be kept secret from You; You know everything before it happens. Here I am about to die, but You know that I am innocent, that these men are lying. Why must I die?'*
 - The Lord heard her prayer and led a young man named Daniel to speak out, just as Susanna was being taken away to her death. He shouted, *'I refuse to be a party to her death!'*
 - Then with the Spirit of Counsel, Daniel questioned the two men and consequently their lies against Susanna were found out
- † Daniel was detached from this world, unlike the judges, which enabled him to use the gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel is far more precious than worldly wisdom (Act 4:1-22)

- † When the rulers, elders and scribes experienced the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus (*Act 4:13*)
- † The Church in Philadelphia only appears to have operated using Counsel received from God (*Rev 3:7-13*)

Bibliography

1. Father Sami Hallaq. *Sabe' Hibat mina al-Rouh al-Qoudus* (Beirut: Dar Al-Mashreq, 2001) second Edition
2. <http://www.totus2us.com/vocation/gifts-of-the-holy-spirit/counsel/>

Legend

 refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'I will fall into your hands, rather than sin in the sight of the Lord' Daniel 13:23 or Suzanna v.23

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Catholic Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس إسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا تُدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين

قانون الايمان

نؤمن بالله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للآب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الآب
وسياتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لمملكه
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الآب والإبن
الذي هو مع الآب والإبن
يُسجد له ويُمجّد
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين