



*Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day*  
*By Deacon Vince Pisano*  
*of Holy Cross Parish*

*Monday of Ascensiontide*

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life..." These words are spoken every Sunday when we profess our Faith and say aloud the Nicene Creed. In our first reading today from Acts of the Apostles, Paul asks the people of Ephesus, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" And they reply that they never even heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul then speaks of Jesus as the one who John spoke of as the one coming after him and they came to believe in Jesus. Paul lays hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in tongues and prophesied.

We received the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and at our Confirmation. We are given the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to empower us and embolden us to be Faith-filled Christians. Do we then "speak in tongues and prophesy" the way the twelve disciples in our reading today did? It seems that we may not take these things seriously but, why? Didn't Jesus promise us the Holy Spirit also?

What is it that we are professing then if we only mouth the words but fail to act? We have not only been given the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit as well. The Spirit works in the world and He works through those who believe. We may not speak in tongues, or prophesy, but we sure can profess our belief by the way we speak of our Christian Faith and live our lives worthy enough to be called Christian.

Haven't there been times when you just happen to be in the right place at the right time to help someone in need? Have you ever wondered where you would be today if just one action in your past was different? Are you reading this reflection by coincidence? Don't stifle the Holy Spirit.