

Pursuing Spiritual Breakthrough

Conclusion

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, August 6. It is also the last day in what the CEC used to celebrate as the Season of Pentecost. Tomorrow, according to the old liturgical calendar, the Season of Kingdomtide would begin. As we have spent the Season of Pentecost pursuing the Holy Spirit and spiritual breakthrough, so let us enter the former season of Kingdomtide remembering that this pursuit is about the Kingdom! It's not about you and not about me, but without each of us pursuing and experiencing spiritual breakthrough the Kingdom will not come in full power. Each of us is an essential component to the whole of God's plan for His transformation of the Kingdom and the secular world.

Here is a reminder of what the 10 Precepts for Pursuing Spiritual Breakthrough are:

1. Strive for Breakthrough.
2. Be Ye Perfect.
3. Take risks.
4. Pay attention to "Left Field" ideas.
5. Keep it simple.
6. Crises are creative opportunities.
7. Walk on water.
8. Consider your legacy.
9. Have Passion.
10. NEVER give up.

It is important that we use every God-given tool available to us in pursuing the things God wants to give us. ASK! Earnestly desire the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Like a child pursuing that special gift for a birthday or Christmas, pursue Him with vigor. Reread these meditations on the precepts: <http://www.cotres.org/about/devotions>. Ask yourself: "Am I ignoring or avoiding one of these?" Then ask God for the grace and courage to embrace all that He wants for you.

Whatever it is that God wants to do in your life, take the risk. Do it. It is a risky business, but the benefits far outweigh the challenges. Doing things God's way can be costly in temporal terms, and it will inevitably be hard work. And on top of that, God will not likely give us the whole game plan before we begin. But when we say "Yes" to God, and passionately pursue Him and His Kingdom, the return from investment will be extraordinary.

God is working a transformation in each of us and in our parish. It is not a one moment, one day, or even one liturgical season event. It is a process—a lifelong pursuit of holiness. St. Paul reminds us that we don't ever graduate from the Lord's school of service. He said, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." (Phil. 3:12) Are you satisfied with where you are spiritually? If so, you have stopped growing. If you are not fully satisfied, GOOD—"press on"! Let God challenge you to go further, go deeper, reach higher.

If spiritual revival and breakthrough are important to you, make time for the spiritual disciplines, daily seeking after Him. Allow God to transform your life, to remove what does not belong and instill the fullness of His Spirit in you. The author of the epistle to the Hebrews says, "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (12:1-2) Look to Him and never give up! And let us pursue together the Lord's spiritual breakthrough for ourselves, for our parish, and for the Kingdom of God.