**THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

**~ REVISED TRANSLATION IN 2016**

*Just before the anointing with Chrism, the Bishop lays his hands over the confirmands and says –*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who brought these your servants to new birth

by water and the Holy Spirit,

freeing them from sin:

send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;

give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and fortitude,

the spirit of knowledge and piety;

fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

1. Wisdom

2. Understanding

3. Counsel

4. Knowledge

5. Piety

6. Fortitude

7. Fear of the Lord

Each one is outlined below…

**Wisdom**. Wisdom is the highest gift of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is the gift that God gives us so that we

choose His ways and thoughts. God has shown us the way in Jesus Christ and He gives us the gift of the Spirit of Wisdom so that we will have His ways and thoughts. When we do not follow those ways and thoughts, then things get messed up and we wonder why. Wisdom enables our minds to see, in God’s plan, where we have come from, where we are going, and how to get there.

**Understanding**. We want to understand Jesus. We want to understand God and the teachings of the Church, the teachings of Jesus. We can’t understand God and the mysteries of the Faith without the gift of understanding.

**Counsel (used to be Right Judgement)**. Counsel is that gift that God gives to us that helps us to always choose right over wrong. To choose the good over the bad. Counsel is that gift of the Holy Spirit that God bestows on us so we will make the right decisions and the right choices; to know what to think, say or do each day. God also gives us that gift of counsel because God has a plan for each and every one of us.

**Piety (used to be Reverence).** Piety is that gift of having reverence for God, putting God first.

Piety is a gift that makes us worship and serve God. Our actions are done with a happy heart because we love God and want to please Him.

**Knowledge**. Knowledge is that gift that God gives to us to help us know God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit. Knowledge is a very important gift. That knowledge can continue to grow. It can continue to deepen. Knowledge helps you to get smarter, but knowledge can help your relationship grow – so knowledge of God helps your relationship with and love of God grow.

**Fortitude (use to be Courage)**. Fortitude is that gift that God gives to make us strong and courageous. Fortitude is that courage to live the faith. It is that courage to live your faith day in and day out and to speak the truth, even when the truth is difficult. Sometimes we know what we should do---it’s what Jesus woulddo, but we do not have the courage to follow our conscience. The gift of

knowledge will tell us what we should do; but the gift of fortitude will give us the courage and strength we need to actually do it.

**Fear of the Lord (used to be Wonder and Awe)**. Does God want you to be afraid of Him? No. God holds you in his hand. Fear of the Lord reveals to us the greatness of our God, so that we are filled with awe and wonder at how much He loves us, and so that we understand that His love is unconditional. Fear of the Lord is having a grateful heart filled with wonder and awe, a heart that desires to never offend God by sin because we know He loves us.