## Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- 1. Wisdom is both the knowledge of and judgment about "divine things" and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth
  - The more confident, skillful, and successful one becomes in the conduct of his particular vocation
- 2. Understanding is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to "see" God
  - The more one engages in such "spiritual warfare," the more one perceives how such skirmishes fit into the big picture that is God's master plan for establishing his reign in this fallen world
- 3. Counsel allows a person to be directed by God in matters necessary for their salvation
  - The cunning to nimbly shift one's strategies to match—even anticipate—the many machinations of the Enemy
- 4. Fortitude denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life
  - familiarity with God breeds the strength and courage needed to confront the evil that one inevitably encounters in one's life
- 5. Knowledge is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice
  - Acquired the habit of following the Father's specific directions for living a godly life
- 6. Piety is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word *pietas* denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety
  - Accepted one's role as a member of God's family
- 7. Fear of God is, in this context, "filial" or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to "servile" fear, whereby we fear punishment... It means that nothing to you is more important than God, that everything in your life centers around and is subordinate to your love for God (Barron).
  - One has realized his very limited, ungodlike place in the scheme of things

These gifts are "habits," "instincts," or "dispositions" provided by God as supernatural helps in the process of "sanctification"

## Seven Virtues and Nine Fruits

https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-seven-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit



The virtue of charity is the key that unlocks the potential power of the seven gifts, which can (and will) lie dormant in the soul after baptism unless so acted upon.

## Seven Virtues and Twelve Fruits

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