

## Knights Reflection November 2023

As a follow-up from October ----- when we heard the “**Catholic Answers**” views of the definition of “**Fear of God**” to be:

1. A joyful awareness of God’s grandeur and a grateful realization that only in Him do our hearts find true peace.
2. The desire not to offend God, and the certainty that He will give us the grace necessary to keep us from doing so.
3. A genuine relationship with God, as with our Parents, based upon the Love in knowing that doing His Will avoids reprisal and generates Grace.
4. A healthy fear of the Lord means we love God above all things and, therefore, do not want to forsake him.
5. It is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis then summed it up in speaking of the fear of the Lord, saying, “**he who lives only for money, for fun, for vanity, or power or pride, then the holy ‘Fear of God’ sends us a warning: Be careful! ... You will not be happy.**”

So tonight, with most of these five Catholic Answers definitions being quite straightforward, let’s look at the less common Number 5 on the List --- that being one of “**The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**”.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the “**Seven Gifts**” in two paragraphs:

- *1830 The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.*

- *1831 The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.*

So, why may these “Gifts” be important enough to be brought up tonight? Other than we rarely hear specifically of them, two reasons, when and how are they received. First through the new birth portion of the Sacrament of Baptism when the “Grace of Baptism” is brought down by the Holy Spirit upon the Baptized (ccc 1266). Secondly, through the portion of the Sacrament of Confirmation where the bishop extends his hands as a reminder of Baptism and asking God to send down the Holy Spirit with his gifts (ccc 1299).

For us, the key is in the one word in the two Catechism paragraphs that is seldom heard in its description of mankind. That word is “Docile”. Remembering that these “Gifts” are with us forever, what these Seven Gifts do is make us docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit and docile in our obedience to the divine inspirations. Meaning that when we exercise of our “Free Will”, we will always have the inclination to do what is right with God.

As scripted in recent articles in both the “Faith” and “Columbian” Magazines ---- there is nothing to fear ---- when we allow ourselves to let the Holy Spirit to work within us through these “permanent sacramental dispositions”, doing the right things, which lead to God granting additional Graces, increase the possibility of our salvation.