

OCTOBER 3, 2010

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14;  
Luke 17:5-10[#141C]



**“Beloved: I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control... Take as your norm the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.”... “The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’”**

The late celebrated spiritual writer Henri Nouwen is remembered for his beautiful work *“With Open Hands,”* a photo essay that allows us to catch a glimpse of the difference between open hands and a clenched fist.

As Paul addresses his disciple Timothy, he reminds him of the potential which came from the imposition of hands. The celebration of the sacraments of our church includes the laying on of hands at priestly ordination and confirmation. The gesture calls for the Holy Spirit to come and fill the life of the one celebrating the sacrament.

On the day of your baptism, as you were marked with the cross of Christ and anointed with the sacred chrism, you were set apart and the spirit of power and love and self control were requested for you. It is that treasure or trust which Paul looks to today as he speaks to Timothy and you.

I ask, how can I ‘stir into flame’ that gift which was conferred upon me. As a spark can start a blaze, we ask that the same spirit may mark our lives.

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

The collection for September 26 was \$6,385. We appreciate your generosity.  
We encourage you to enroll via the ParishPay website <https://www.parishpay.com/>. Select the St Joseph West Village link. Use the paperless way to help our ministry.

Dearest Fr. John.

At the end of my stay with you, the other Dominican confreres, and with the people from the parish of St. Joseph’s Church, I would like to express to each one my deep and sincere thanks for your fraternal hospitality. Since my arrival last February, for my sabbatical, I have had a wonderful time with you! The proof is that as I leave at the end of September it seems to me that I arrived among you only just last week, I think that this is the best sign of just how happy I was with you.

First of all, my thanks go to you and the other members of the Dominican Community. With you I have shared time in prayer, ministry and fraternity. Your sense of hospitality with the many guests who were at St. Joseph’s House during these months, your ministries and preaching to the university students at NYU, in the Parish and through the mass media are examples to our Order and as how your charisma can bear fruit. At the same time, my thanks go to Mrs. Joanna and Mrs. Georgina; Mr. Ben (the best cook in NY!!!), Charlie, Jurek, Michael, Hector, John Paul, Tom, Carlos, and Alfonso, each one of them was very kind to me and was always available in every situation: I felt right at home thanks to them.

In addition, my thanks go to the parishioners and the other people I met during these months at St. Joseph’s Church, especially during the daily and Sunday Masses. Among them, a very special thank you to Michael, Sr. Alice who was very helpful to me in improving my English, and above all to Mrs. Yolanda for her time and generosity in all these months.

Last, but not least, my most sincere thanks go to the faithful who have assisted my Eucharistic celebrations (especially Sr. Rita, Mrs. Máire, Mrs. Rhe, and Mrs. Sirikit, Mr. Michael, George, Paul Carlos, Andy, and James). Thanks to your patience and virtue shown in listening to my poor English (I will repeat everywhere that the pews of St. Joseph’s Church are full of *heroes* and *martyrs*!!!), and for your fraternal support and friendship!

During these months I walked almost every day along the Hudson River. At a certain point on the promenade there is a little square with a monument with this inscription: ***“I can sail without wind, I can row without oars, but I cannot part from my friend without tears.”*** Beyond all the possible words (especially in English for me!), this sentence reflects my feelings at this moment, and I am certain of its understanding on your behalf. Pray for me and I assure you that I will keep you in mine.

Yours, in St. Dominic our Father,

Fr. Bruno, O.P