

Homily for the Sixteenth Sunday Year A

Based on the 2nd Reading

A little boy went with his mother to visit his grandfather in the hospital. Seeing his grandfather was very weak and unable to speak, the boy quietly walked over to his bedside, held his hand, and simply stood there for a few minutes. He didn't know what to say. Before leaving, he gave his grandfather a hug.

On the way home, the boy said to mother, "Mom, I did not know how to pray for Grandpa, so I just held his hand." His mother smiled and said, "My son, sometimes the greatest prayer is not the words we say but the love we bring. God understands what our hearts cannot express."

A few days later, the grandfather told the family, "When my grandson held my hand, I felt God's peace. He never said a word, but his love spoke louder than words."

Today's second reading beautifully highlights the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual lives. It is one of the most comforting passages in the New Testament because it reminds us that we are never alone, not even in prayer. As we heard today, **"there are times when we simply do not know how to pray, but the Holy Spirit prays within us"**.

*(St. Paul wrote his Letter to the Romans around A.D. 57–58 while he was in Corinth. He had never visited the Christian community in Rome, but he had heard of their strong faith. They were living in the capital of the Roman Empire, surrounded by pagan beliefs, persecution, temptations, and many daily struggles. He reminds them that they are **not alone**. God has given them the **Holy Spirit** to live within them.)*

This Scripture passage reminds us that the Christian life is not something we live by our own strength. Every day, we face situations that leave us uncertain, discouraged, or overwhelmed. At times we ask, "Lord, what should I do?" or "How should I pray?" In those moments, God does not leave us to struggle alone. **He gives us the Holy Spirit, not only as our Comforter but also as our Teacher, Advocate, and constant Companion.** The Spirit gently guides our thoughts, strengthens our faith, and helps us choose what is good and pleasing to God.