

Dear Padre,

I recently had a spirited discussion with a Protestant friend regarding Romans 8:26. He believes his “perfected prayer of being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues” is addressed in that verse. What does the Church say about this verse?

Romans 8:26 says, “In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.”

I’d be careful not to interpret this passage too narrowly and limit its application only to the gift of speaking in tongues. In fact, its application is much broader and actually can be applied to all Christian prayer.

When it comes to praying effectively, all of us can use some extra help. We get that help from the Holy Spirit. Scripture scholar Joseph A. Fitzmayer, SJ, maintains that the Holy Spirit actually plays an active and dynamic role in helping Christians pray effectively by interceding on his or her behalf. In effect, the Holy Spirit expresses for us the inaudible prayers and groaning of our hearts, for which we have no words. So, when we pray, the Holy Spirit is actually present to us and makes up for what we are lacking in our prayer due to our own human weakness.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Let us try asking ourselves: Am I open to the action of the Holy Spirit?...This is a prayer we must pray every day: “Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”

GENERAL AUDIENCE, MAY 15, 2013



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Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 30
Weekday
1 Thes 4:13–18
Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday
AUGUST 31
Weekday
1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11
Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 1
Weekday
Col 1:1–8
Lk 4:38–44

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 2
Weekday
Col 1:9–14
Lk 5:1–11

Friday
SEPTEMBER 3
St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church
Col 1:15–20
Lk 5:33–39

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 4
Weekday
Col 1:21–23
Lk 6:1–5

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 5
Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 35:4–7a
Jas 2:1–5
Mk 7:31–37

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