

28. Privileges of God's Men

“You have been given the privilege of serving Christ, not only by believing in him, but also by suffering for him (Philippians 1: 29).”

God's Men

A God's man is someone living in this world who makes efforts, sacrifices, sweats, and even risks his/her life to follow God's will rather than human will, by the call of God. “God's men have to live following only God's will. They have to want only what He wants, love what He loves and choose the path that He takes, regardless of whether doing so would leave them in dissatisfaction, anguish, sadness, or happiness (from a sermon of Fr. Oh Woong-Jin in a mass of November 17, 1994).”

God's men get the privilege of serving Christ, and those serving Christ win the privileges of faith, hardship, and glory.

The privilege of faith refers to having confidence that everything one believes in and seeks to do will be accomplished; the privilege of hardship refers to being able to take part in the suffering of Christ; and the privilege of glory refers to the glory of resurrection that the dead will enjoy with Christ after having lived a life of hardship.

Privilege of Faith

“Believers will be given the power to perform miracles: they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people, and the sick will be healed (Mark 16: 17-18).”

The biggest contributor responsible for the transformation of Kkottongnae into what it is today, after starting with just 1,300 Won, is faith. Kkottongnae had to overcome a number of ordeals and hardships whenever they were building new facilities to take care of patients. It was their firm faith that had made everything possible each time. They had confidence and faith that everything they believed in and sought after would be accomplished.

Those who had been hurt were able to heal their sick bodies, broken hearts, and abused souls through faith after coming to Kkottongnae. Many voluntary workers were able to resolve personal and family issues while they were serving at Kkottongnae as well. The benefactors and members of Kkottongnae have also experienced recovering of their families and curing of their illnesses



100 priests from diocese of Incheon including Bishop Choi Gui Sun after their visit to Kkottongnae.

and pain.

Kkottongnae has become a place of healing through its privilege of faith.

Visitors often say in unison, “This is not something that can be done by just human power,” after they look at the scale and diversity of facilities in Kkottongnae, with the patients living happily, helping one another overcome the pain of their sickness and sorrow of being forsaken.

Privilege of Hardship

The founder Fr. Oh Woong-Jin has gone through a number of hardships for the past 30 years since beginning Kkottongnae. People would oppose it when it contradicted their own interests, despite saying that it was doing good deeds, taking care of the poor. There were even those who interfered in its operations even though they had no relation to the community.

Once there occurred a problem in the process of building the House of Love. One night, several influential men in town came to ask for a meeting with Fr. Oh. They were against the building of the House of Love, saying that Fr. Oh would become famous if he housed, fed and cured the needy, but they themselves would be troubled by the beggars flocking from all over the country. Fr. Oh prayed, asking for the wisdom of Solomon in that perplexing situation. At last he said, “Your answer to this question will be my answer. If you and your family were to be in the same situation as the beggars here, what would you think of my building a house for you?” They

could not answer for some time. After a moment they answered, “We would appreciate it,” and then they went back. Finally, Fr. Oh sighed in relief and continued the building of the House of Love (excerpted from Story No. 18 in Kkottongnae Stories, 1992, Kkottongnae Publishing Company).

Even after that, the leader of the beggars continually harassed Fr. Oh for compensation money for having taken his men from him. The man went as far as attempting to murder the Father with a knife after breaking into the parsonage. Recently, a person with a mining license sued Fr. Oh for impinging on his mining right; Fr. Oh had worked to protect the underground drinking water for Kkottongnae family which would be polluted if the mining proceeded. The law suit case is still under way. In addition to the above listed cases, there have been so many trials that Fr. Oh has faced that we cannot list them all.

Pray for Pain, and Pray for Death

When people ask “What do we do when pain and suffering tires us so much that we want to give up everything?” Fr. Oh replies: **“In order to overcome your suffering, pray for an even greater pain. When the greater suffering comes, pray for death. My only wish is to live for my poor neighbors till I die. I have prayed for death, but I am still alive, so I was able to overcome that suffering.”**

People generally do not like suffering and try to avoid it. However, people living a spiritual life volunteer for a life of sacrifice, asking for pain and embracing the cross.

“I consider that what we suffer at this pre-

sent time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us (Romans 8: 18).”

Privilege of Glory

“The pleasure of Christmas is found in love, and the way to salvation is in the glory of God.”

This was the Christmas message from Fr. Oh Woong-Jin in 2005. Kkottongnae is a community of salvation. We can experience the beauty of a saved spirit when we see Kkottongnae family members make peace with the world, forgive those who had forsaken them and repent their sins, leaving this world peacefully. When we take a last look at a dying Kkottongnae member who has suffered from

long-term sickness, all the difficulties we had while taking care of them disappear, and we have hope and pleasure in believing that they will share the glory of God.

God’s men who have given up everything to follow God’s will will receive the privileges of faith, hardship, and glory in serving Christ.

Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus of Kkottongnae praying for the dying



29. Kkottongnae, the Fruit of the Holy Spirit 1

Kkottongnae and the charismatic prayer meeting

This is the era of the Holy Spirit.

The modern movement for Charismatic Renewal has a short history of 40 years within Catholic Church. However, in a short time it has spread throughout the whole world rapidly and has been producing a lot of fruit during these times. The development of advanced science; the expansion of materialistic culture; and the maximization of individualism and egoism are common phenomena of today's world. In this situation families are disrupted, young people are wandering astray, and where the intellectuals do not see the truth, moral decay and sexual indulgencies are aggravating the confusion of this world. No culture, knowledge, or new technology can stop or change this chaotic movement running downhill. Church and faith are the only alternative measures and suggest a right direction.

The Kkottongnae welfare facilities and the Kkottongnae prayer meeting have been growing together. Kkottongnae is not just a place for charity work or social work but a place for the salvation of human beings. The bases of social welfare are financial and material support, good facilities, a wide variety of programs, well-organized and sufficient staff members,

and the support of academic knowledge.

However, these are necessary but not enough conditions to deliver men. To deliver deserted people who are sick in body and mind as well as have broken soul, a cure should be worked on their body, mind, and soul all together. The true cure is achieved not only by feeding and dressing them, and applying various programs, but also providing them with a spiritual service, taking care of their internal mind. It is achieved only when there is love and prayer on the basis of faith.

The 8-Week Holy Spirit Seminar for Kkottongnae Families

Kkottongnae families are living with spiritual pain as well as physical and mental pain.

Providing services, we have realized deeply that what our families really need is a spiritual service. Their closed mind with ill feelings ever since they got sick and forlorn cannot be opened and cured only with external services.

Since 1998 we have held an 8-week Holy Spirit seminar twice a year for Kkottongnae families who are laboring with a spiritual thirst so they may drink from the fresh spring of life from God. The Holy Spirit seminar, where patients who are serious cases on their beds,



Listening to Fr Oh°Øs homily at one of vigil prayer gatherings in Kkottongnae

voluntary workers, and the religious join altogether, is a special experience for them. While this gathering itself is a touching moment for them, it is really a time of the grace of God. Through it we can have a better understanding of the severity of our patients' internal pain through the program of group conversation; we can have a clearer awareness of the advancement of our families' spiritual maturity and the dwelling of God's especial love on

the poor through the Holy Spirit. Kkottongnae families, voluntary workers, and the religious have a valuable experience of spiritual unity and harmony through this seminar.

The Cure and Forgiveness of Kkottongnae Families

A brother with lower half paralysis by an accidental spinal injury was living at Kkottongnae. He became to be mentally ill obsessed by his

unrecoverable body condition; his regrettable and unhappy past; the accumulated grievances, dissatisfactions with and hatred against his neighbors. He gave up everything, refused eating, and made up his mind to abandon his life. His mind was full of sadness, regret, and hatred, and as a result he got sick on his stomach and could not even swallow a draft of water. He had a personal interview and he found out that everything was due to a spiritual problem, and finally confessed that he himself was the biggest problem. After that, he received a spiritual imposition and healing prayer, and he laid down for about an hour in a rest. After he woke up, he said that he felt refreshed and then ate food well. Furthermore, he felt like going to church which he had not liked before, became happy when worshipping the Eucharist. He wanted to read the Bible and to give the rosary prayer over and over. Above all, he could enjoy the complete feeling of liberation from the yoke of hatred through his brave behavior by asking for forgiveness from his neighbors whom he had hated.

The Cure of Voluntary Workers, Patrons, and Members

The voluntary workers and the religious who are working in salvation work need a certain degree of social welfare related academic knowledge as well as basic nursing skills and minimum medical knowledge. However, first of all, they have got to live a spiritual life to carry out their serving job continuously. Kkottongnae Prayer Meeting has led many young people to a life of public service, and has played a crucial role for them to be spiritually regenerated to get refreshed when they

were tired and weary. Many Kkottongnae patrons and members have healed themselves and their families through the spiritual experience at the Prayer Meeting.

A husband and wife decided to divorce after a lot of troubles between them. They agreed to participate and pray in Kkottongnae Retreat for Hallowing Family Life, and to finalize their divorce proceedings if they did not experience any change of their mind there.

After they listened to a sermon and took the sacrament of penance, they kept shedding tears during the interview. They took imposition of hands, and were joining a special prayer meeting with a theme of forgiveness, when there was a big change in their hearts. Up to that time, whenever they saw each other with human eyes, they had seen something bad about their spouses and only bad memories had occurred to them. However, they became to think that this situation was caused by their own faults not their spouses, and became to be aware how valuable they were to each other, and good things, which their spouses had done to them but they had forgotten for a long time, occurred to them. At that moment they could see each other with the eyes of Holy Spirit. This husband and wife confirmed their love to each other in the eyes of many people, hugged firmly for a long time, and at last tear up the divorce documents.

Kkottongnae, the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Kkottongnae is a town, which is made up of love.

The love is from God. God sent us the biggest present, the Holy Spirit. The spiritual



Brothers and Sisters of the community are laying hands on the heads of family members of Kkottongnae during the 8 week seminar of the Holy Spirit. (Top)
Family members of Kkottongnae are laying hands on brothers and sisters.

gift is sweet-smelling flowers blooming on the tree of faith. The flowers of the spiritual (Charismatic) gift spread Christ into our neighbors through their fragrance, make people gather at church as bees flying around flowers, and provide them with living words like honey within flowers. As the people who take the living words live a life of forgiveness, reconciliation and love, they produce abundant spiritual (Charismatic) fruits.

A fruitless fig tree is cut down and thrown away after all.

Among the nine kinds of fruit of the Holy Spirit love, pleasure, peace, patience, kindness, good deeds, truth, meekness, and moderation the first and greatest is love. After we experience the Holy Spirit and live a changed life, we cannot live without loving. If we do not love our neighbors even after we experience the Holy Spirit of God, the experience is a dead

experience without any fruit.

In so far as we receive the Holy Spirit, we have to become a light of this world: We have to abandon the life of living only for ourselves; we have to be a sacrificial offering for our spouses, children, parents, and neighbors; we have to live a life of love on behalf of their pain and death. We love you.

Kkottongnae Charismatic Retreat for Youth





Fr. Oh is talking to one of the attendees of the Mass for the Holy Family

30. Kkottongnae, the Fruit of the Holy Spirit 2

A True Priest Is an Instrument of the Holy Spirit

Father Oh Woong-Jin, who went to a seminary to become a priest for the poor, has always held the belief that **a true priest is an instrument of the Holy Spirit**, and has had a deep interest and enthusiasm in spiritual prayer since the beginning of the spirituality renewal movement in Korea. He started the spiritual prayer meeting in a room in the basement of Vincent Hospital in 1974, soon after the introduction of spirituality renewal in Korea. He planned a Holy Spirit seminar with other deacons at Cheongju Diocese in 1975 when he was a deacon, and he experienced a lot of spiritual gifts through spiritual imposition at the Spiritual Meditation Meeting of priests and the religious in 1977 after he became a priest. The overnight prayer meeting, which began with just 16 people on September 16 of that year, has now developed a bigger following with holy duties and awakened believers about what true happiness is. At last, the Kkottongnae House of Spirituality (with a floor space of 2,300 pyung on a building site of 30,000 pyung) opened on September 8 this year after 29 years of preparation, raising funds, teaching and making people experience and learn God's love.

Fr. Oh Woong-Jin's First Experience in Attending the Spiritual Meditation Meeting

"I cannot forget the Spiritual Meditation Meeting that was held for priests and the religious in the summer of 1977. Many who attended participated in fasting and overnight prayer in front of the Sacrament to receive spiritual gifts during the night of spiritual imposition. The Fathers and Sisters there who gave us spiritual imposition advised, 'Father Oh, ask for a gift which you will need to live for the poor, since you live with the poor.'

After I heard this, I prayed just for the Holy Spirit, thinking that while there were many kinds of gifts, there is only the one Holy Spirit who gives them to us. When I was sleeping that night, my tongue stuck itself out of my mouth, moving up, down, and sideways over my lips on its own. It was so strange that I prayed to God to let it stop so I could get some sleep. At that moment, my tongue went back in my mouth and I fell sound asleep.

The next day when we were meditating and praising after mass, there burst up strange words here and there amidst those gathered there. I spoke strange words as well. Before long, prophecies sprang up. A loud cry of 'You must repent' was the first prophecy. Then a sis-

ter wailed at the top of her voice, calming down only when another prophecy of 'Hold your peace' came. The second prophecy was 'Be proud and boast of being a priest.' During lunch time after the mass, an old priest came up to me and said that it was the first time he had heard words like 'be proud' and 'boast of being a priest.' He also said that he came to

forgive a priest, who was like a son to him, and would visit him after 18 years of holding a grudge. I became aware of how authoritative prophecies were and how valuable a priest's job was."

(from a story of Fr. Oh's experience in a sermon)



Mass for the Holy Family

Korea, a Country of the Lowest Birth Rate

We are against God's will with our birth rate of 1.08, the lowest among all countries on earth. The extreme selfishness and pleasure seeking often makes people get contraception or choose abortion, so around 1.5 million babies a year are dying in mothers' wombs, as a result. The decrease in population has led to a difficult situation in Korea: schools are short of students, human resources are lacking while the unemployment rate is rising higher and bringing in hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, and national competitiveness is getting weaker. **Fr. Oh has conducted an anti-abortion campaign and many children bearing campaigns, spreading the significance of life with a prophetic mission since 30 years ago.** Many families who accepted the teaching gave testimony that their family was hallowed and the family discord was resolved through the loving process of giving birth to new lives and raising babies.

A Family Healing Case

"God's love is said to be unconditional, but I used to blame my husband for all family troubles and difficulties, so it was natural that our family continued falling into discord.

I have attended Kkottongnae's mass for Hallowing Family since the August of 1981. I became aware of God's love through Fr. Oh's sermons and realized that I had lived wrongly by meeting Kkottongnae families. Repenting my lack of love for my husband and children, I began to be aware, little by little, of the meaning of the life and of loving my family and suffering and dying for them. God told us to bear many children and flourish with descendants,

but I used to say that I would never give birth to more than two children with selfishness and greed, worrying about becoming pregnant. Now I realize how wrong this attitude was and how far I had been living against God's will. Repenting on these, 15 years after I gave birth to my son and daughter, I became pregnant again and gave birth to a son after receiving Fr. Oh's prayer. Now our family has regained peace, loving one another, and making a sweet and happy home."

A Case of Sterility Treatment

"This is the 12th year I have been connected with Kkottongnae. I started visiting Kkottongnae as an obstetrician, seeking to be of help, since my close friends were volunteering there. Going to Kkottongnae once a month on the weekends to take care of patients, I realized that mental illness was far more serious than physical illness and we were all patients in some way. Especially whenever I saw Brother James Shin Sang-Hyun, a fellow medical specialist who was devoting himself to working at Kkottongnae, giving up wealth and prosperity, I, as well as my friend doctors, began to realize that there were more valuable things than material objects in the world.

Kkottongnae is an unforgettable place for me. Even though I was a medical specialist on sterility treatment, I myself had been sterile for over 6 years. Whenever I visited Kkottongnae, the Sisters brought me some herbal tonics, black sesame oil, or red persimmons, which help with pregnancy. After a long wait, Brother James Shin took me to Fr. Oh to receive his prayer, which was an important event in my life.

It was in June about 15 years ago, since my twin children are already 15 years old now. That day, Fr. Oh, who was too busy, prayed for me, and I clearly remember that my head was turning hot and there was some strange and strong fragrance. Six months after that, I came to bear twins again, and now they're as tall as I am. Since then, I have often told my story to my sterile patients together with medical advice and a thankful heart. I will never forget Kkottongnae and will remain a person who loves Kkottongnae forever."

A True Priest Is a Tool of the Holy Spirit

It is not easy to follow God's will living in the secular world, since the mundane people sometimes do not feel comfortable with, make fun of, are jealous of, or persecute God's people. The history of Kkottongnae can be expressed as 'the history of flowering God's will in this world by being a tool of the Holy Spirit.' It is the history of spiritual struggle of a priest, who holds the belief that a true priest is a tool of the Holy Spirit who has overcome worldly things.



A street demonstration for anti-abortion