

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