

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