



## *You Shall Receive Power When the Holy Spirit Comes Upon You!*

By: Mary Ann Collett

While growing up in the '50s and '60s, I understood very little about the Holy Spirit even though I had attended Catholic School. I was taught, I had received the Holy Spirit in Baptism and that I would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be a 'soldier of Christ' in Confirmation. I don't remember anything about being baptized as an infant, other than what my mother had told me.

During my Confirmation day, there is not much I remember other than, being anxious to have to answer a question, if chosen by the Bishop. Although, I do recall, vividly, that day the Bishop laying his hands on and anointing my head with Oil, and then tapping me on the left cheek and saying my new Confirmation name, as I knelt before him at the Altar.

It was not until I was in my thirties, that I would come to have a personal encounter and let the Lord take over my whole life (that's another story!). The Holy Spirit became real to me—revealing the Father's personal love for me and the Son's forgiveness. I experienced His empowering presence transforming my life from the inside out. The Holy Spirit not only is the *Chain of Love*, connecting the Father and the Son but, *He, has made me a new creation!*

I later came to understand that I had experienced a personal renewal of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. I was saying yes, to what my sponsors had promised on my behalf at Baptism as an infant. I was saying yes, to Jesus as Lord of my life and in Him I experienced the reality that He is the one who baptized me in Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5).

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have had plenty of time to reflect on my many personal experiences with the Holy Spirit. It all began with my personal yes, when I was Baptized in the Holy Spirit on January 20, 1981. This has been an incredible journey, "Praise the Lord!" Yet, so many of my brothers and sisters have never encountered Pentecost personally. I have grown to know that it is meant to be a lived experience and is what God wants for all of His people.

As I celebrate Pentecost today, I recall, being blessed to know the joyful reality of the Holy Spirit, and I pray for opportunities to share with others the good news of what Christ has done for me by His death and resurrection. And for the forgiveness of my sins and to give me new life in the Holy Spirit (Romans 4:25, 6:3-4) and He offers me the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians: 5, 22-23)

If you never have known this reality, today might be the day, to ask the Lord to renew you in His Holy Spirit. Make a decision of your will to surrender to Jesus as the Lord of your life, and ask Jesus to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Remember, it is the fruit of the Spirit given to us in Baptism and Confirmation.

Listen to what the Lord Jesus invites each one of us in scripture: Ask and you shall receive!

**“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses...” Acts 1:8**

**So, why not ask Him? Simply pray to Him. Trust me! He will hear you!**



Mary Ann Collett is the proud mother of 3 married daughters and 7 grandchildren. She is an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Lay Evangelist; whose gift is to intertwine Scripture and personal stories. Mary Ann Collett, MSW, MA, CLEM, LLC, is a *Bereavement Counselor, Life Coach, Pastoral Care, Spiritual Director, Support Groups, Speaker for Retreats and Workshops*. She is in private practice in Red Bank. Mary Ann has been in the Healing Ministry for over 36 years. She is the co-founder of the thriving ministry Catholic Women of Zion celebrating their 31st year in 2020. She has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.