

Reflection for the Week: 15th November-22nd November, 2020

Gifts

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

God gives gifts to us all. Our job is to discern what they are and use them in his service and in the building up of his people. This is Paul's whole point to the church in Corinth. Gifts are given to help others, not to reserve as a special interest or to exploit people.

There are many gifts; teaching, preaching, praying, gifts of pastoral care, hospitality, kindness, wisdom, discernment, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. Although there are many expressions of spiritual gifts, the gifts we have are given by the same Lord, through the same Spirit. Church has an inherent corporate design – we are made to compliment each other. All the gifts are necessary to form a functioning Body.

But, the greatest of all gifts is the gift of love – of God and each other. This, says Paul, is the 'most excellent' gift and the one to strive for.

To reflect:

- What are my gifts?
- How do I use them in God's service?
- How can I develop my gifts?

To pray:

Holy Lord,
May we all contribute our gifts and insights, showing obedience to your will,
whatever our role in church or in our communities.
May we think collectively and act individually
in accordance with your vision
for the church your Son would wish to see,
here in this place.

Amen.