

Faith, Spirit & Prayer in our Families' (both personal and Parish Family)

Last Sunday, Father Tran's homily included the following phrase, "The Holy Spirit helps us experience God on a day-to-day basis and is the one who gives us faith, the one who sustains us and the one who keeps us in the presence of God".

For myself this phrase enriches my **Faith**, his inspired singing at the May 17th Mass serves as an advocate to strengthen our **Spirit**, and the attached brief synopsis regarding my Father's family's' early struggles of separation serves me to hi-lite the comfort of **Prayer**.

In 1940, my Grandparents and their 6 children (including my Father, 3 Uncles and 2 Aunts) were deported from their home in Poland and spent 2 years in a Siberian labour camp before being released and split up (my Father and Uncles were separated into various army divisions during WW2) and my Grand Parents and Aunts spent years in a British refugee camp in Masindi, Uganda. They were able to correspond by military mail and finally made their way to different parts of England at different times and then were eventually sponsored at different times so that they finally came together as a family in Calgary by 1952 (12 years since being deported). My Family does not like to speak of these times (and probably would scold me for mentioning this story). However, one time I asked my Father if there was any one thing that he felt helped sustained him during those years of separation from his family....his answer "**Prayer**".

Faith, the **Holy Spirit** and **Prayer** have helped strengthened me to endure this physically separated from my personal and Parish family for the past 12 weeks of this pandemic and should help us all carry on for as many more days or weeks that it takes....because what is 12 weeks compared to 12 years ?

Greg Kowalewski