



## *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

There seems to be so much division and conflict in our world, our church, our country, our communities, our families, and if we are honest, even within ourselves. This Sunday's readings give us pointers on how to address these conflicts and work toward reconciliation, resolution and harmony.

"Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all! This was Moses' response to Joshua, son of Nun, who asked Moses to stop Eldad and Medad, who were left in the camp, in prophesying because they were not among those to whom the spirit was bestowed. The Spirit blows where it wills. No human is able to have monopoly of the Spirit. No "side" can claim that they have the Spirit and the other does not. In the same manner, Jesus tells John in the Gospel, "Whoever is not against us, is for us!"

So, to resolve conflicts, one must first acknowledge that others, even those with whom we disagree, also have the Spirit of God with and in them. All have been given of the same Spirit, but not all have received the same Gifts. St. James Kansas City celebrates this variety of Gifts in our diversity. May we use these various gifts harmoniously to reach our same goal – our God!

This week, I celebrate in thanksgiving because a couple of my family members, after so many years of discord, have reunited and offered forgiveness to each other. We may not agree on everything and see things the same way. Each of us has specific gifts and thus, different approaches. But we can be of One Mind and One Heart on our way to One God!

I had the privilege of saying the Eucharistic Prayer II for Reconciliation in the past. May I share with you this prayer: "For though the human race is divided by dissension and discord, yet we know that by testing us you change our hearts to prepare them for reconciliation. Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts so that enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries may join hands, and peoples may seek to meet together in peace. By the working of your power, it comes about, O Lord, that hatred is overcome by love, revenge gives way to forgiveness, and discord is changed to mutual respect." May our reception of the Eucharist move us to live in mutual respect!

*~ Peace,*

*Ben*