

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 16, 2022

Today's Second reading is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The city of Corinth was a leading city of economic and political importance. It also was a gateway between East and West. So, as you can imagine the population was from every corner of the world. Paul came to the Christian community there and stayed with Aquila and Prisca, prominent members of that young Community, about 18 months. If you have the time this is a very unusual collection of people and commerce.

For our study, we will look at the Gifts Paul speaks about in this letter: different gifts but the same Spirit. Paul hope is to build this community by emphasizing the unity needed for the members of this church. Jealousy and competitiveness were rampant among these members. So, the difficulty was to bring this diverse collection of foreigners together. Paul emphasizes the presence of the Spirit among the members and in the building of this church community.

In our world today, we too have a diverse collection out of which to form one Body of Christ. Our diversity does not come so much from country, and culture; but more from attitudes around covid, masks, gun control and politics. We all have opinions, and we have a right to them. At the same time, we are challenged to learn from each other's thoughts and privileges. It is difficult to express our views without igniting a heated conversation. To value each other while at the same time giving attention and a listening mind and heart; to hear with respect. This is the challenge of our time. This is the work of the Spirit as we strive to become One Body in Christ.