

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Power Joined Together Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time Tuesday,
September 6, 2016 8:15 AM 1 Cor 6:1-11; **Lk 6:12-19** (Since Christ is the head we
serve at his wishes, at his direction, not our own.)

“Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.”

We make Jesus the model of our lives, rightly so, and yet we have to recognize that within him there was **a power that is ordinarily not in us**. So it’s not that Jesus renounced power; in a way he lived a life of powerlessness, but he had his own *dynamis*, in the Greek New Testament, his own power, **which was this healing force**.

Now each of us as individuals do not do much for the work of God. The point I believe that the New Testament is trying to make is that we form the body of Christ together, that is our “joined together” in which we receive the Holy Spirit, and therefore it is **as our “joined together” that we have any power to heal**. So I think the gospel is trying to get us to see **our interrelatedness, and indeed our need for each other in the body of Christ**. So that the new life we have in Baptism is not a new life of each of us as individuals but rather a new life as a body, each of us being a member, a part, and **since Christ is the head we serve at his wishes**, at his direction, not our own.

I believe this was the genius of most of the saints like Francis of Assisi. Francis led a life of total poverty and total humility, but the point was he was serving God where he found him, and he found him usually among the neediest and the poorest. In a way this is reflected in the life of Pope Francis as well and indeed many of the **saints**; indeed most of them **found God among the neediest and the poorest as Jesus found them among the sickest**. This is where God wanted him to be; this is where he went.

Now the Church has become a large institution spread throughout the world, and it is very easy for us not to feel part of this body of Christ, to feel disjointed, disconnected. But in that sense of being disjointed and disconnected **we lose the power that we have being united as the body of Christ**. So as we gather today to pray for the evangelization of the world and the continuing work of God, we might also consider how we are connected and how we need to be connected.