

Homily for January 21, 2001
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

By Father Charles Bowes

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1- 4; 4:14-21

Jesus' words are fulfilled even today in us.

The gospel, Luke chapter 1 and chapter 4, is not only a great story, but full of high drama.

Imagine a young Jew from the hometown who had learned to read at this very synagogue, now reading the scroll and announcing calmly at the end of it: "It is happening. Today the words are fulfilled." After two thousand years of looking back, we think he meant that this is the beginning of fulfillment. We still have a very unfinished world. But the key message here is that the Messiah has come, the Messianic Age is at hand. The Jews expected it to be announced by signs like these, and they were right. These signs about the poor and the imprisoned and the troubled and how Jesus touched them - describe Jesus' ministry.

Because we have been baptized into Christ Jesus, each of us can say with confidence, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon

me." Yet, while the Spirit dwells in us, there is always more of the Spirit which we can receive - although perhaps we should not say that we get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather that he gets more of us! Mother Teresa of Calcutta defined evangelization as, "Be Jesus; share Jesus." This is what some of our number are doing for us today in their witness to our parish retreat and to the evangelization to which we're all called in some fashion or another. We who are at the table become what's on the table. I'll invite Mrs. Klich, our Pastoral Associate, to introduce our speaker this morning.

