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The Carpenter's Touch

By Harry Simoneaux



In February, 1977, during 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's in Warrington, while the folk choir, which my daughter, Simone, leads, was leading the congregation in the Our Father, tears started flowing freely from my eyes. My first thought was that this was ridiculous. I had not shed a tear since my childhood. I dried my eyes and refused to give in to such feelings.

Two weeks later at the same Mass, in the same pew with my two sons, as I knelt in prayer, I started asking the Lord to give me a stronger faith for mine was weak. As father of seven children, I felt I needed more faith to set a better example for those around me. Once again, tears began to flow freely from my eyes. I closed my eyes tightly but nothing would stop the tears. Then suddenly, as the tears poured, the most peaceful feeling came over me as if I really was in the presence of the Father.

I received a vision and the Lord told me, "You have nothing to worry about anymore. All your problems will

be taken care of." I just remained kneeling there for several minutes — or so it seemed — forgetting where I was.

After Mass, I went to my daughter and told her what had happened. I was pretty shaken up. After hearing my story, Simone said, "Daddy, you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

From that moment on, I noticed that I had no more pain in my back — let me explain here: During World War Two, I received a back injury which had been hard to live with. At this point, I was wearing a steel brace and was going to have to give up my life-long work as a cabinet-maker. I also was healed of an arthritic condition in the lower spine. My doctor had me taking pills for a uric acid condition which was supposed to be incurable, and I was healed of that, too.

For three years now, I have trusted the Lord to take care of any and all problems. I was blind; now I can see. I was sick; now I am well. Jesus has really touched me and changed my life. He has given me a stronger faith. †

Harry moved his family from Louisiana to Pensacola in 1964. He is a member of Holy Spirit P.G., where he serves his church parish as lector. He owns and operates Simoneaux's Woodworks and is an enthusiastic fisherman.

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