



THE CATHOLIC CLIPPER

A FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO THE TRINITY

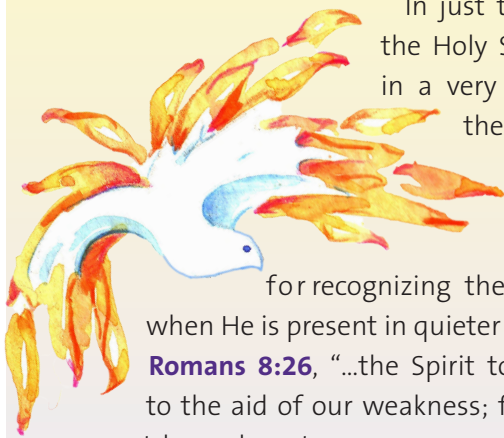
April 29, 2018; Cycle B, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Volume 2, Issue 22



“Come, Holy Spirit”

“Veni, Sancte Spiritus”



In just three weeks, the Holy Spirit comes in a very big way. In the meantime, you will find below more clues

for recognizing the Holy Spirit

when He is present in quieter ways:

Romans 8:26, “...the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought... the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.”

John 16:13, “But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth... and will declare to you the things that are coming.”

John 14:26, “...the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you... and remind you of all that [I] told you.”

Revelation 2:7, “Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches...”

Our challenge is to develop the senses that feel when our prayers are being lifted up to God, know God’s truth when we hear it, and remain open to being reminded of Him when we wander.

CHAMPIONS OF THE FAITH

The Holy Spirit protects the Church’s teachings from error, but not its members. History has shown that no one is immune from sin and corruption, no matter how high the office. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit empowers exceptionally holy people at critical times. Pope St. Pius V (reign: 1566-1572), honored on May 5th, was one such person.

Pius V’s papacy began soon after the Council of Trent (1545-1563). This Council dealt with problems and protests assailing the Church from all sides. Luther and others led the break with the Church, while poorly trained clergy were the norm and corruption was common. The Muslim Turks threatened invasion and emerging nation-states were at war. Pius V’s challenge was to carry out Council reforms amidst all of this, and in the process, gather together the people of God.

As a Dominican friar, Michael Ghisleri resisted advancement, but, seeing the need, he accepted papal election as Pius V. He ordered seminary training for priests, enforced existing laws, published the Council’s

Catechism, and required **Confraternity of**

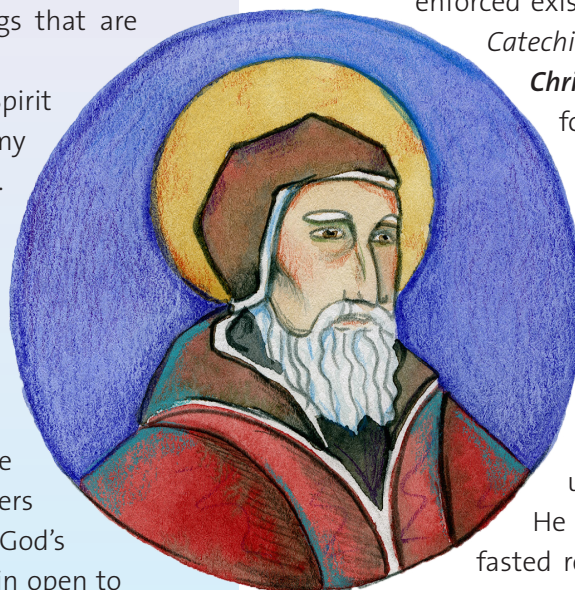
Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.) classes for lay

folks. As if this weren’t enough, he organized the fleet which won the Battle of Lepanto, saving Europe from Muslim domination!

Hands-on with the poor, Pope St. Pius V founded hospitals, himself nursing the sick and tending to lepers. Money reserved for Papal banquets was used to feed and shelter the poor.

He devoted hours daily to prayer and fasted regularly. Refusing papal finery, he

wore his Dominican habit (white), the model for today’s papal cassock. Truly Pius V was called and guided by the Holy Spirit.



Hidden TREASURES

Acts 9:26-31
Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8



Our readings today remind us just how very physical the practice of our religion is. We can almost see Barnabas throw his arm around Saul-Paul when he “took charge... and brought him to the apostles.” (Acts 9:27) We *feel* what is expected of us when Jesus tells his disciples that we, the branches to His “Vine,” must live in Him, never falling away. We might even experience a little anxiety wondering just what the ‘pruning’ Jesus mentioned will involve. The challenge of being a follower of Christ, being open to whatever is required to ‘bring forth even more fruit’ can be demanding indeed.

While seeing lets me know you exist, and hearing tells me that I exist, it is touch that makes it clear there is a relationship between the two. As branches in Christ, interconnected to and touching each other, we can hurt or heal, build up or destroy. Words and actions, the ways in which we touch, are never neutral.

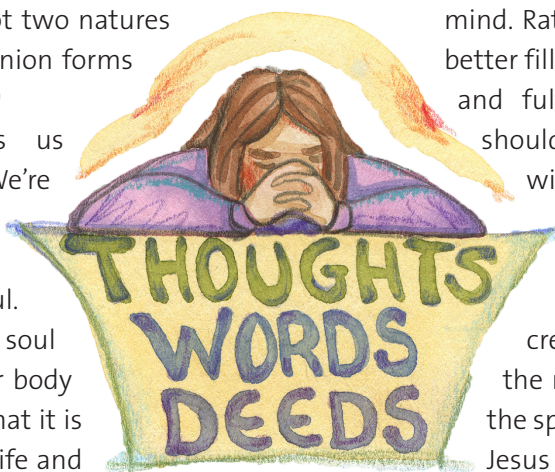


They forever shape our souls.

What do we build up with our words and actions? Our physical bodies and our egos? Or do we use words and actions that sacrifice our material desires, and feed our spiritual bodies? The body we choose to feed is the one that will live.

“**T**he unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the ‘form’ of the body... it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter... are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.” (CCC 365)

This paragraph gives us much food for thought. We’re used to focusing on our material body, assuming it then keeps alive our soul. But it turns out that the soul is so closely united to our body (permeating every cell!) that it is the soul which breathes life and

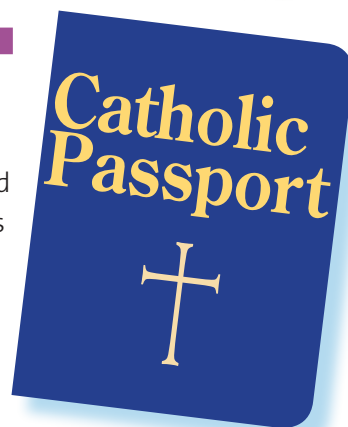


gives the body its form.

This means that we should at least be making our choices with a different standard in mind. Rather than, “How can I better fill my needs, my wants, and fulfill my goals?”, we should ask “What choices

will bring life to my spiritual soul, and how can I use my body and mind to implement these decisions?”

The *human person*, a *soul*, is an amazing creation. Both body and spirit, any sacrifice that the material body can make will feed and build up the spiritual body. This is not a ‘pruning’ to fear! What Jesus offers is a gift from God.



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