



THE CATHOLIC CLIPPER

A FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO THE TRINITY

April 22, 2018; Cycle B, Fourth Sunday of Easter

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“Come, Holy Spirit”

“Veni, Sancte Spiritus”

Still on our search through the Bible for times when the Holy Spirit is present, we find the following:

Acts 4:31, “... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (speaking) the word of God with boldness.”

Titus 3:5, “...through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18, “All of us... are being transformed into the same image... as from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:22-23, “In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

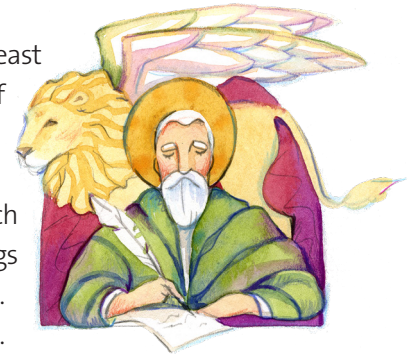
When we see others (or ourselves!) boldly speaking the Word of God, renewed in spirit or being transformed into the likeness of God, or when we see the fruits of the Spirit being made manifest,

then, truly, the Holy Spirit is present and acting.



CHAMPIONS OF THE FAITH

St. Mark the Evangelist's Feast (April 25) celebrates a life of secrets, travel, and adventure. (John) Mark grew up in his mother Mary's house which was used for secret meetings of the early Jerusalem Church. Here he learned about Jesus.



Here his cousin Barnabas invited Mark to accompany Paul and him to Antioch, then on a mission to Asia Minor. And here he returned after leaving that journey midway.

Later he travelled on a mission to Cyprus with Barnabas, then on to Rome. He assisted St. Peter and composed his Gospel based on Peter's spoken accounts. He also aided St. Paul during the latter's final imprisonment. Lastly, tradition says that Mark became Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt before dying a martyr.

AMERICA'S SLOW TRUST IN GOD...

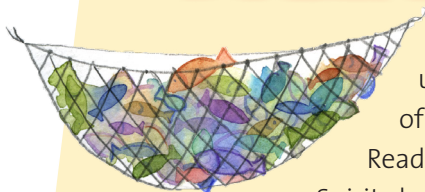
In 1776, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson met to design our new country's seal and motto. No reference to God was permitted. In 1782, Congress accepted the Great Seal, an eagle clutching 13 arrows in one talon and an olive branch in the other, with *E Pluribus Unum* as the unofficial motto.

On April 22, 1864, Congress ordered that “In God We Trust” should appear on some coins, namely the 1864 two-cent coin. The next year Congress ordered these words onto gold and silver coins. But this wording wasn't on our paper money until 1956 when Congress made *In God We Trust* our official national motto.



It took 180 years to profess our trust in God. Where do we go from here?

Hidden TREASURES



Peter, a fisherman, was used to the 'fishy' scents of his work. In today's First Reading, we see that the Holy Spirit had given him an equally

sharp 'moral nose.' Noting the sly plotting of the Temple elders, but not intimidated by them, Peter loudly and boldly proclaimed (to paraphrase), "We heal by the power of Jesus Christ, the one whom you crucified!"

Peter recognized the decay in the men who



schemed to get rid of the Apostles. He knew the odor of greed, envy, and lust for power. Securely rooted in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, his spiritual senses were acute. He spoke boldly, gave witness to the truth, Jesus Christ, and allowed no one to put a wedge between God and him.

Can we detect the rot of hypocrisy? Can we smell the half-truths of deceivers? Do we know when someone is trying to play on our fears or longings so as to separate us from God? Open to the Holy Spirit, we, like Peter, will be better able to detect anything and anyone moving us away from God... including ourselves. It remains for us to first awaken our senses to the scents of the heavenly.

Acts 4:8-12
Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

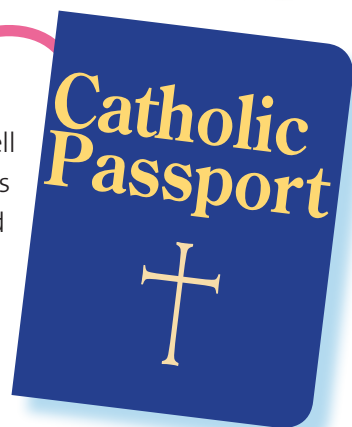
Just as our physical senses can keep our body from harm (or even death!), our spiritual senses help keep our embodied souls from harm. Developing these senses, we can soon see, hear, sniff-out, or almost touch and taste what threatens to seduce us away from God. Our spiritual senses are what we use to order our passions toward God.

Our passions – joy and sorrow, hope and fear – are part of our nature: "... they form the passageway and ensure the connection between the life of the senses and the life of the mind." (CCC 1764) In and of themselves, they are neither good nor bad: "Passions are morally good when they contribute to the good action, evil in the opposite case." (CCC 1768)



Our moral senses tell us when our passions are serving us and when they are serving God.

To train the higher senses, we begin in prayer by involving them: "We are body and spirit, and we experience the need to translate our feelings externally. We must pray with our whole being..." (CCC 2702) We must take care to use our moral eyes, ears, nose, and more, to always orient our decisions and actions toward our souls' reward.



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