



# THE CATHOLIC CLIPPER

A FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO THE TRINITY

May 6, 2018; Cycle B, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Volume 2, Issue 23



“Come, Holy Spirit”

## “Veni, Sancte Spiritus”

With the arrival of the Holy Spirit in a very loud way in two weeks, today's Scriptural passages offer quieter signs of the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:2** – “For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death.”

**Ephesians 2:18** – “...for through [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

**John 15:26** – “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father... he will testify to me.”

When we are finally freed from a sin or bad habit, when we feel near to the Father by talking to Jesus, or when we witness people boldly testifying to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is present. When have you experienced these things in your life?

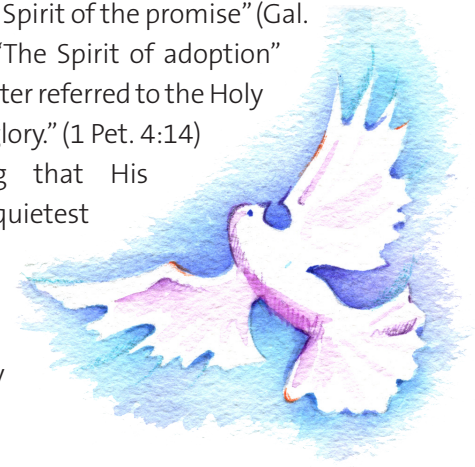
## The quiet one...

Even though, “the Holy Spirit is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son” (CCC 691), we have heard the Holy Spirit called by other names and titles.

Jesus used the word, **Paraclete**, which means, “he who is called to one's side.” (see website) We find paraclete translated as *consoler, counselor, and advocate*. John's Gospel refers to the Holy Spirit as, ‘The Spirit of Truth.’ (16:13)

While Paul uses “The Spirit of the promise” (Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13), and “The Spirit of adoption” (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6), Peter referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of glory.” (1 Pet. 4:14)

Bringing everything that His names describe, this quietest Person of the Most Holy Trinity knows that His actions speak louder than any words.



## Mary's Month

The month of May signals Spring with all of its fruitfulness and new beginnings. It is no wonder that over the centuries it came to be known as the ‘Month of Mary’:

“And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...’” (Luke 1:35)

It was Mary's “Yes!” to God's Holy Spirit that brought about the greatest of first fruits, Jesus Christ.

It seems natural that the “30 Day Devotion to Mary” which developed during the Middle Ages quickly found its home in May, the time of new life. When we think of Mary, we think of the one person, other than Jesus, who shows us the abundance that comes when we whole-heartedly and completely say ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit.

# Hidden TREASURES

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17

Today's Gospel message is one we often breeze past. After all, everyone knows what love is, right? But do we?

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

*John 15:13*

So used to focusing on being *in love* or *feeling loved*, we seldom stop long enough to really hear what Jesus is describing here. This love is summed up in the Eucharist, the death that became life-giving, the sacrifice that is food for an entire people: "Taste and see..." (Ps. 34:9)

This love is a verb, as in "I loved *well*." Inevitably, this love demands sacrifice and exacts a cost. This love is lived out. Sealed in the Blood of Christ, this is the love we hunger and thirst for.



Anyone who does not tremble at this teaching is not really seeing or hearing what Jesus is defining. But those with the eyes to see and the ears to hear sigh in gratitude that we have been given the Body of Christ and the Holy Spirit to accompany us: "Taste and see that the LORD is good..." (Ps. 34:9) And we are blessed that these words are true and real.

When we profess, "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." in the Apostle's Creed (8<sup>th</sup> Article), what are we saying? The Holy Spirit is perhaps the



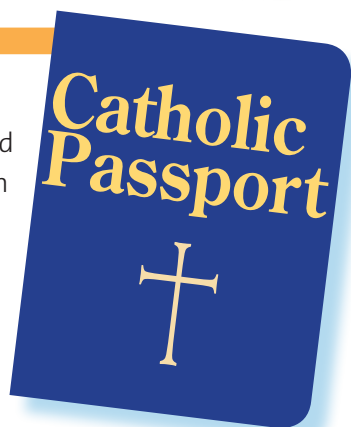
most neglected Person of the Most Holy Trinity, and thus, the least known.

Part of this situation is actually by design: "...the Spirit does not speak of himself. The Spirit who 'has spoken through the prophets' makes us hear the Father's Word, but we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which

he reveals the Word to us and disposes us to welcome him in faith..." (CCC 687)

So it is up to us to quiet ourselves enough to note Him in the silence, in the stillness, and in the small things. This same Holy Spirit who has ushered in the birth of the Church in a very loud way is available to each of us now in quiet ways. He is present to teach us and to form us. He performs the action of the sacraments within us and the work of the worship that draws us in. (CCC 1091)

The Holy Spirit is silent for a reason: how better to get others to quiet themselves so they can hear, than by speaking in the softest of whispers?



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