

the CATHOLIC NAVIGATOR

Charting a Course to Christ

6 May 2018 • Cycle B: Sixth Sunday of Easter

VOLUME V • Issue 23



“Come, Holy Spirit” “Veni, Sancte Spiritus”



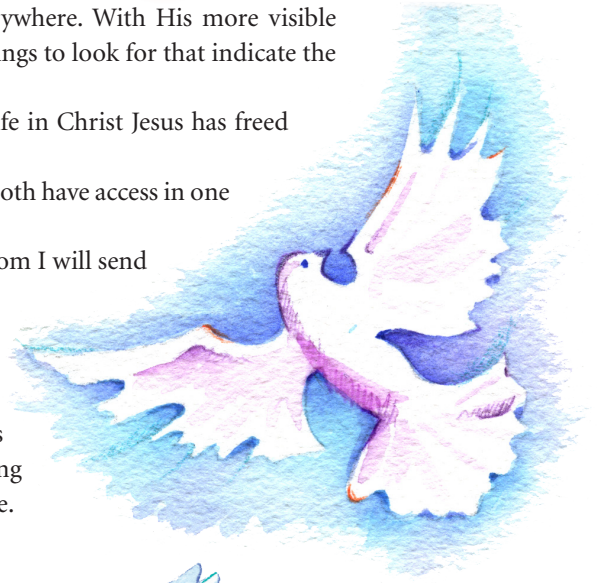
The footprints of the Holy Spirit are everywhere. With His more visible arrival in just two weeks, here are more things to look for that indicate the Holy Spirit is with us now:

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 freed from a vice, a sin that had us enslaved, when we feel the closeness of the Father because of our nearness to Jesus, and when we see witness being given boldly to Jesus Christ, be still. The Holy Spirit is present. During this next week, take note of these times in your life.



A Mostly Silent Presence

While “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 also heard Him referred to in other ways.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the *Paraclete*, literally, “he who is called to one’s side.” (see website) This word has been translated *consoler*, *counselor*, and *advocate*. In John’s Gospel, the Holy Spirit is called ‘The Spirit of Truth.’ (16:13)

In Paul’s Epistles we hear of ‘The Spirit of the promise’ (Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13), ‘The Spirit of adoption’ (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6), ‘The Spirit of Christ’ (Rom. 8:9), ‘The Spirit of the Lord’ (2 Cor. 3:17), and ‘The Spirit of God’ (Rom 8:9, 14; 15:19; 1 Cor. 6:11; 7:40). Additionally, Peter names the Holy Spirit, ‘The Spirit of glory’ (1 Pet. 4:14).

How wondrous is God, the Holy Spirit.

the spirit of truth



Mary’s May

Entering the month of May, we are reminded of one who, other than Jesus, was perhaps the closest to the Holy Spirit – 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)

During the Middle Ages, a “30-Day Devotion to Mary” developed. First observed during August and September, it was soon moved to the month of May because of its associations with fruitfulness. With Jesus Christ the first fruits of Mary’s “Yes,” nothing else could better mark the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring than the actions of Mary. Her response to the Holy Spirit ushered in a new age, and, some say, inaugurated the Church. Saying ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit of God is sure to bring forth an abundance in our life!

Scriptural Secrets

T

his 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

If we take nothing else from our catechetical instruction, it should be this definition of love. So radical is this love that it informed and still forms our faith

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

tradition. It is summed up in the simplicity of the Eucharist, the death that became life-giving, the sacrifice that is

food for an entire people: "Taste and see..." (Ps. 34:9)

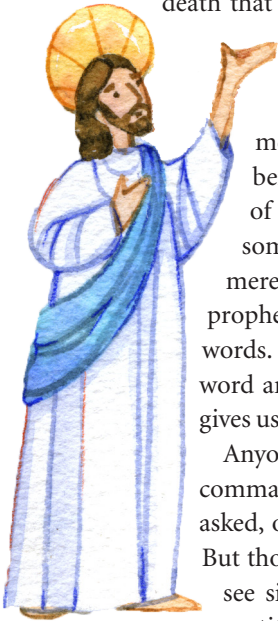
Notice, this definition does not mention the euphoria that comes with being 'in love,' nor does it hint at the sense of well-being and joy that settles in when someone loves us. This 'greatest love' is not mere emotion or sentiment. Unlike other prophets, Jesus did not stop at passing on wise words. He lived them. The union of Christ's word and deed, an action sealed in His blood, gives us the love for which we hunger and thirst.

Anyone who does not quake at this commandment is either not hearing what is asked, or not envisioning what it might entail. But those with the ears to hear and the eyes to

see sigh in gratitude:

Jesus left His Body to nourish us and sent the Holy Spirit to guide us.

So we set foot on the path with David's words echoing in our mind, "Taste and see that the LORD is good..." And how blessed we are that these words are true and real.



Catechetical

We confess our belief in the Holy Spirit with the eighth article of the Apostle's Creed. We know so little about the third Person of the Trinity, though, that when we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit," what are we really saying?

Part of the responsibility for this state of affairs lies with the Holy Spirit Himself:

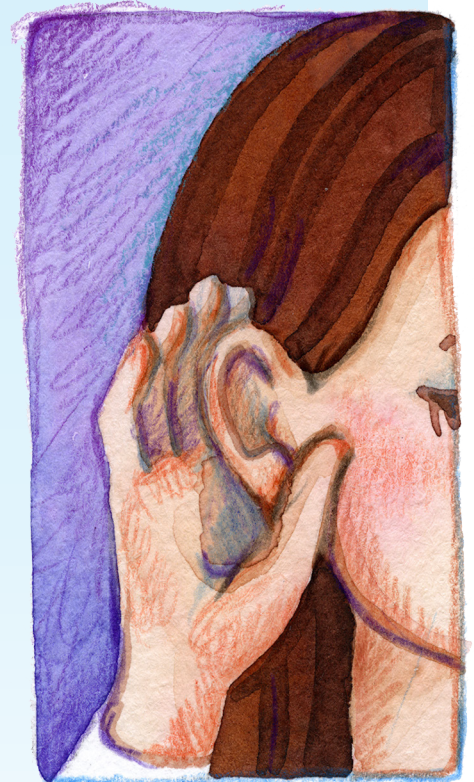
"...the Spirit does not speak of himself. The Spirit who 'has spoken through the prophets' makes us hear the Father's Word, but we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which he reveals the Word to us and disposes us to welcome him in faith..." (CCC 687) But the rest of our 'unknowing' is our responsibility.

To learn about The One who 'does not speak of Himself,' we must become quieter and more attentive.

This time of *mystagogia*, when we depend upon the Holy Spirit to bring us to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the Faith, is a time for doing just this. Taking time to withdraw, we begin to notice the subtle movements, actions, and inspirations of the Holy Spirit deep within.

The Holy Spirit not only ushers in the birth of the Church, but, as we will see, this One who 'comprehends the thoughts of God' (1 Cor. 2:11) is a teacher of the Faith and is intimately involved in the actual work of worship and sacraments. (CCC 1091)

Corner



Imprimatur: Most Reverend Richard F. Stika, Bishop, Diocese of Knoxville, December 12, 2017. The Imprimatur ("Permission to Publish") is a declaration that the work is considered to be free of doctrinal or moral error. It is not implied that those who have granted the Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed.

©2018 *The Catholic Navigator* • All rights reserved. Distribution rights granted to license holders solely for print copy.

For source materials go to www.TheCatholicNavigator.org • Excerpts from the English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for use in the United States of America, ©1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc. -- *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. Used with Permission.

Graphic design by Nancy Chifala Design • Illustrations by Jenifer Schneider