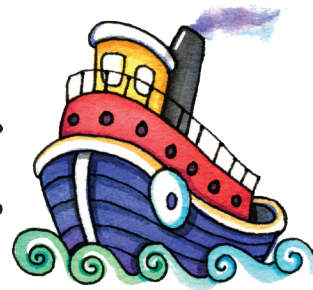


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



May 31, 2020 Cycle A, Pentecost Sunday

Volume V, Issue 27

Buried Treasures



In today's First Reading, the Holy Spirit is introduced as a "a noise like a strong driving **wind**" and as "**tongues as of fire** which parted!" But there are many other symbols for and signs of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit appeared as a **dove**, descending on Jesus at His Baptism. In the Old Testament, the Holy

Spirit appeared as a **pillar of cloud** by day, and a **pillar of fire** by night, to

lead the Israelites. (CCC 697)

The Second Reading told us that "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit." This reminds us that the Holy Spirit is wherever we see or hear the love between the Father and the Son being expressed. (see CCC 694-701 for more signs of the Holy Spirit.)

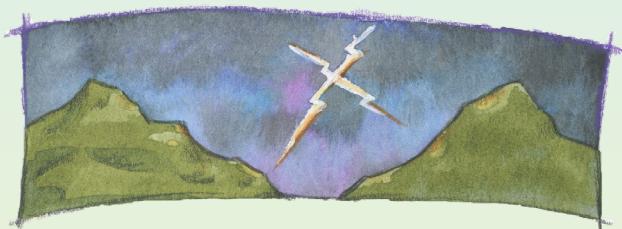
Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
I Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23



Bolts From the Blue

In the 300s, people still battled over Jesus' nature: Human? Divine? The story is told that, in 351 A.D.), a sign occurred on Pentecost that seemed to offer an answer to this question from the heavens: 'the sky caught fire' over Jerusalem!

Two bolts of lightning blazed across the sky to make a perfectly proportioned cross. On one side, the bolt ended at Mount Golgotha (Calvary), and, on the other side, the bolt ended at Mount Olivet (about two miles apart).



St. Cyril, Jerusalem's Archbishop, saw this as a sign that Jesus was both human and divine. He wrote to the Emperor of the miracle, and what it seemed to proclaim: Jesus Christ, human, died on Calvary, and divine, ascended in glory to heaven from Mt. Olivet! A sign that He was both!

From Your Lips to God's Ear

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with the **Intercessions** and the **Doxology**. The Intercessions offer our prayers for the dead, and ask God to one day allow us to join the Communion of Saints. Following this, the Eucharistic prayer ends with the **Doxology**. This word means to *proclaim praise*, and this is exactly what we do.

Do the following words sound familiar? "Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever." After the priest says these words, the entire congregation joins together to offer

a great and hearty "AMEN!" This Great Amen should be filled with all the love and adoration for God we can possibly fill it with!



amen

Our Salvation History: A Plague to End All Plagues

Throughout all the plagues, the Pharaoh's heart remained hardened. It seemed that nothing could change his mind. Then, God sent Moses to announce one more plague to Pharaoh. This one was so awful that, surely, it would move Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.

Moses obeyed, went to Pharaoh, and said, "Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go forth in the midst of Egypt; and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits upon his throne, even to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the mill; and all the first-born of the cattle." (Ex. 11:4-5) This plague must have struck Pharaoh to the core: His own father did to the Hebrew boys what God would now do to all Egyptian firstborn males, including his.

The Hebrews were told to put

lamb's blood on their doorposts that night, and to prepare the bread at that time without yeast. They were to be ready to leave at a moment's notice and would not have time to wait around. All happened as it was pronounced. A tremendous



cry went out throughout the land as the angel of death killed all firstborn males, passing over those homes marked with blood on the door posts. The Pharaoh finally told Moses to take his people and go!

But Pharaoh has one more move... [Challenge: Read Exodus 11-12; 13:17-22 for the full picture!]

Tugboat Challenge

1. _____ Intercessions
 2. _____ Moses
 3. _____ tenth plague
 4. _____ "AMEN!"
 5. _____ doxology
 6. _____ Eucharistic Prayer
 7. _____ signs of the Holy Spirit
- A. prayer proclaiming all praise and glory goes to God
 - B. the heart of the Mass
 - C. wind, tongues of fire, dove, pillar of cloud
 - D. all firstborn males of man and animal died
 - E. prayers for the dead and for the entire Communion of Saints
 - F. the one chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to freedom
 - G. the entire congregation says this as all praise and glory are offered to God

Answers: 1.E 2.F 3.D 4.G 5.A 6.B 7.C

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