

6.8.2019

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

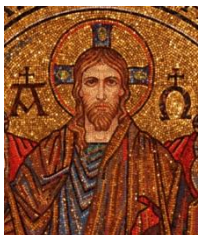
An Invitation to the Upper Room

Pentecost is upon us. We meet to discuss the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and others in that large room in the middle of the Holy City Jerusalem. More so, we discuss how it is relevant to we Christians today. It is with Joy we proclaim: God sends forth his Holy Spirit! It is the promised PARACLETE - Advocate, Comforter, Companion, Counselor, Friend, Helper, Intercessor, Patron, and One who speaks in our defense for us.



The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and other early followers of Christ, both male and female on the occasion of the Jewish Feast of Shavout. The ancient feast celebrates the giving of the Torah and the summer wheat harvest 50 days after Passover.

What made Pentecost special is that the words of the prophet Joel spoken some 900 years earlier came into being. God poured out a portion of His spirit upon all flesh. His people shall be made holy and everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. This is hugely important. It is the beginning of the Church of Christ. It is the complete redemption, rescue, and deliverance prescription of a person regardless of former religious affiliation, status in society, race, color, gender or other separation or distinction. One and all who call upon the Sweet and Holy Name of Jesus Christ shall be numbered upon the Book of Life and Salvation.

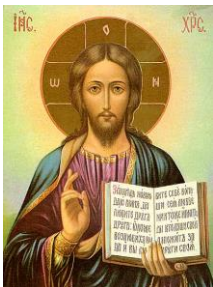


Christ sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify His Church, to enlighten and strengthen the Apostles, and to enable them to preach the Gospel. The Church was indeed sanctified through the coming of the Holy Spirit by receiving those graces which Christ had merited for His ministers, the bishops and priests, and for the souls of all those committed to their care.

The belief in the real presence of the Holy Spirit as described in the account of the Day of Pentecost is integral to the Christian faith. Today, 2,000 years later, we believers are still filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and call upon the Spirit whenever we are in need of strength, guidance, or seek to do God's Will in any form.

We men have been built from the very core to reflect the image and likeness of God. More so, we have been built with a yearning to be connected to Him. Jesus is the gift that makes that connection. Jesus satisfies that yearning, hunger and ache to be connected with God. The Holy Spirit is the Power that ties followers of Christ to the Eternal Source: God.

Let's listen carefully to the Wisdom of Holy Scripture, Catechism and Modern Comment. May God give each one of us the necessary means to complete His Gift of our Unique and Holy Mission.



Joel 2:28 The Spirit of God

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

Acts 2:1-14 The Coming of the Spirit

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"



We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, "What does this mean?" But others said, scoffing, "They have had too much new wine."

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

683 - I BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT

"No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."

"God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us. By virtue of our Baptism, the first sacrament of the faith, the Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son.



687 - GOD CALLS EACH OF US

"No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

Now God's Spirit, who reveals God, makes known to us Christ, his Word, his living Utterance, but 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. The Spirit of truth who "unveils" Christ to us "will not speak on his own." Such properly divine self-effacement explains why "the world cannot receive him, because it neither sees him nor knows him," while those who believe in Christ know the Spirit because he dwells with them.



THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT An Invitation to the Upper Room

DPE

Forty years ago, Father Malinski wrote a commentary on the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Reflections on Life and the Rosary. As we prepare for Pentecost, let us listen carefully to the words of this Polish priest, writer, and theologian, on the 3rd Glorious Mystery.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

These are the little qualms of conscience, scruples that bother you...concerns. These are your misgivings...you feel like a scoundrel. These are your self-accusations—that you've made yourself comfortable, that you're already so complacent, so content, that you're absorbed in amassing a fortune, material objects, positions, honors, citations, commendations, pomp, titles, bows, greetings, compliments, signs of respect, loyalties...fearful responses.

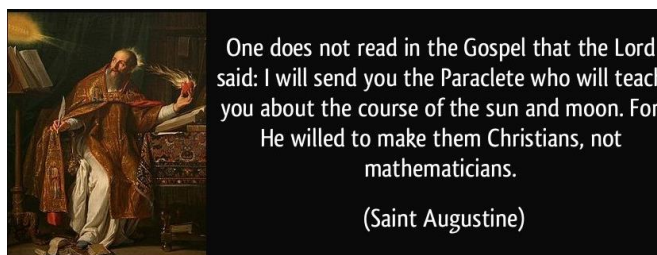
The Descent of the Holy Spirit

You hurt...because you hurt another. Your conscience pricks you for your dishonesty, abuses, shortcomings, unnecessary words for ignoring the weak; for your disdain, callousness, obstinacy, stubbornness—just so you could show your superiority to prove you're right.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

These are your little delights, inner satisfactions which you feel when you've done something good—your enchantments, exhilarations, bursts of strength and energy, fresh ideas, new resolutions, and new beginnings. Suddenly...you open your eyes and see what was invisible: new perspectives, new worlds, new possibilities.

You see a person you had never noticed before even though he was always around you. You listen to a person you had never understood before even though she had always been talking to you and always been asking you for something, always explaining something to you. You notice your sorrow at someone's misfortune, your joy when someone receives good news. These are your words of praise to a stranger, an acquaintance, a friend, a co-worker, a rival. This is your courage to tell the truth—to say "yes" when you're convinced you ought to say "yes" and to say "no" when you're convinced you ought to say "no." This is your courage to put your trust in another person, believe what he says is truth, support him, and save him from others and himself.



This is your new sensitivity, to be able to feel what's going on in another person—what he feels, what she's going through, what he's afraid of, what she needs, what he's dreaming, and what will bring him a tiny bit of joy and happiness. This is your new sensitivity to appraise the values of your community, your generation, your people, the world and its problems, aches, threats, dangers, tragedies, directions, tendencies, and trends to understand the concerns and the anxieties that trouble mankind.

To face them squarely, seek answers, solutions, cures, medicines, help, salvation, propose solutions, get involved, accept what's good, reject what's wrong, false, pointless, while responding to the needs of the times—building a new world, a better world, more beautiful, more glorious, full of truth, justice and goodness.

This is your time to respond to The Descent of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



A LAKE STORY A Modern Day Upper Room

Steve Tomasko

The bucolic setting is in rural Wayne County about 1985. It takes place on 22 acres near a small lake in an original 19th century rustic log cabin.

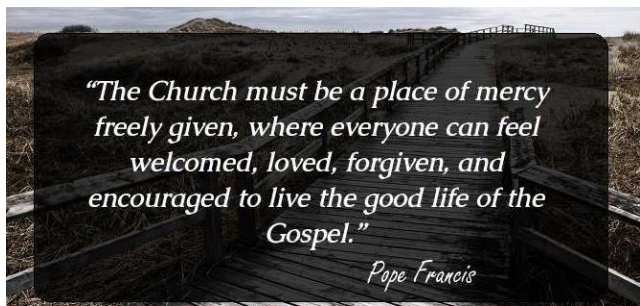
The Descent of the Holy Spirit occurs in our lives each day...if we prepare the way in our hearts.

Amen.



1. Paraclete

- ◆ Translated as Counsellor, comforter, Helper, Advocate.
- ◆ Greek meaning – “called alongside” “called to one’s aid”
- ◆ 1 Cor 6:19, 20 – Holy Spirit in the believer
- ◆ We can only live holy lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.





Questions for Discussion



1. Can you recall a time in your life when you needed to escape to a private room to get away from your troubles, worries, anxieties? Please share.

2. During this or any other time did you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit? How did this experience change your heart? Give an example.

3. Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit in these terms?

PARACLETE Advocate Comforter Companion
Counselor Friend Helper Intercessor Patron
One who speaks in our defense/for us

Men's Group Calendar

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

July & August	NO Men's Group NO Mass	Summer Vacation
8/24/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
9/14/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
9/28/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
10/12/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass



Bring Christ into the Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with Lord Jesus in Adoration. Silence fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's a presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to life. Family, friends, church...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. Doubting is OK if we bring it honestly to Him. He can and will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be in the emptiness, not running from it, not trying to fix or fill it.
- Ask: What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does He want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M WORRIED, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF. WHEN I'M AT PEACE, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I REMEMBER THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to be a Man of Integrity by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Saying YES to the gift of the Holy Spirit...and sharing him with others.



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*"God knows our sins but calls us by name.
Satan knows our name, but calls us by our sins."*



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who you put into my life. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them peace and mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need and emptiness with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

Lord Jesus, I believe you are calling me to yourself. Right here. Right now. Just as I am. And though you love me too much to let me stay as I am, you take me as I am today. Help me to follow you more deeply, knowing the journey does not depend on my strength of perfection, but on your perfect Love for me.
