

THE HOLY SPIRIT
SESSION #16

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit (p.84)

Closing Prayer: For the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit by St. Bonaventure (p.85)

Image: Saints of Sinai; Baptism of the Lord

Homework: CCC 571-682

Presentation of your Saint

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

CCC 687: “No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God . . .”

Thus it is only through the working of the Holy Spirit that we can come to know and understand the Father. As soon as we say this, one may be asking, however, but do we not say that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the fullness of the revelation of God; Did he not also say: “No one comes to the Father except through the Son.” How is it then that the Church can claim at the same time that it is only through the Holy Spirit, that one can know the thoughts of God, or even see God? This is not a trick of a play on words between the thoughts of God and revelation of God Himself, but again, resolved through the Mystery of the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the three persons. We can truthfully say that both, that it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can come to know God and that no one comes to the Father except through the Son, and again, “No one has seen the Father except for the Son.”

It is through the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, that in a crude and human way we would say that they communicate with one another and are united with one another and that by Him it becomes possible to see the Father through the Son. So it is not that through the Son we merely glean from His knowledge what he communicates and reveals of the Father, this would be in an imperfect way, but because of the Holy Spirit we truly see the Father in and through the Son.

It is also most significant that we are reminded that the Holy Spirit does not reserve Himself to God alone. He is not alone the Love expressed by the Father and Son toward one another, but is that expression between God and man as well. The Holy Spirit proceeds from God to man, as was the Word that came to the Prophets, revealing the ministry of salvation even before the incarnation, not only so that man could begin to see and understand God, and not only as an expression of God’s Love and activity in the world, but also so that man could recognize Christ and know the Messiah when he came. We recall the journey of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and how it was that the revelation of Christ, first came through the explanation of Moses and the Prophets and the testimony that they gave to the Son of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who is called the Advocate and gives testimony.

CCC 689

In another way, the Catechism says “It is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him. This is how it is possible to see without seeing and the meaning behind Jesus’ explanation for teaching in Parables. To hear and understand is not the same as simply being able to hear, but it is only with the aid of the Holy Spirit that we can understand what Christ came to reveal. While many will interpret according to the necessity of the Holy Spirit in order to advance in the Faith, it is intended, rather, to equally be a sign of

fruitfulness and the presence of the Holy Spirit. So that, in other words, we can take confidence that one who understands and is able to discern truths of God in the absence of a literal explanation, is a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This presence can be internal or external. That is, externally the Holy Spirit reveals the Word of God to a person, as it did to the Holy Prophets; or internally, there is an indwelling of the Holy Spirit which became possible through the Incarnation and was poured out fully upon the Church at Pentecost.

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: CCC 694-701

Water (gives life and purifies, and brings fruitfulness)

Anointing (Sends on mission)

Christ was “anointed by the Holy Spirit” so that it is also that through sacramental anointing, we receive the same Spirit, and are also incorporated into the mission of Christ.

Fire (Strengthens and purifies)

Cloud and Light (Indicates presence of God)

Both reveals God and veils the transcendence of His Glory.

The seal (claims and makes permanent)

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, one is “Sealed with the Holy Spirit”

The hand (Completion of work)

It is by the laying of hands by the Apostles that the Holy Spirit is given

(Acts 8:17-19; 13:3; 19:6)

Finger (knowledge and direction “written by the finger of God)

“It is by the finger of God that [Jesus] cast out demons” (Lk 11:20)

Think back to the woman caught in adultery, as Jesus, with his finger, wrote in the dirt.

Dove (Forgiveness and promise of mercy)

The return and sending of the dove by Noah suggests the renewal of the earth.

Gifts of the Spirit (Is. 11:1-3)

Wisdom

Knowledge

Counsel

Fortitude

Understanding

Piety

Fear of the Lord

Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

Charity

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness (Uprightness of heart and life)

Gentleness

Generosity

Faithfulness

Modesty

Continency/Self-control

Chastity

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH: SEE CCC 737

NAMES OF THE HOLY SPRIT (FROM THE LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER)

Spirit of wisdom,
Spirit of understanding . . .
Spirit of counsel . . .
Spirit of fortitude . . .
Spirit of knowledge . . .
Spirit of piety . . .
Spirit of the fear of the Lord . . .
Spirit of faith . . .
Spirit of hope . . .
Spirit of love . . .
Spirit of joy . . .
Spirit of peace . . .
Spirit of humility . . .
Spirit of meekness . . .
Spirit of patience . . .
Spirit of longanimity . . .
Spirit of goodness . . .
Spirit of mercy . . .
Spirit of chastity and purity . . .
Spirit of fidelity and truth . . .
Spirit of sanctity and justice . . .
Spirit of perfection . . .
Spirit of the children of God . . .
Ruler and Protector of the Catholic Church . . .
Searcher of human hearts . . .
Consoler of the afflicted . . .
Eternal Light . . .
Fountain of life . . .
Unction of our spirit . . .
Joy of the angels . . .
Light of the patriarchs . . .
Inspirer of the prophets . . .
Teacher of the Apostles . . .
Strength of the Martyrs . . .
Comfort of confessors . . .
Purity of virgins . . .
Delight of all the saints . . .

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST

IC XC

AND SAVIOR

JESUS CHRIST

