

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (9-15-19)

ANGEL OF GOD

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

KEYNOTE: GOD'S LOVE—THE HOLY SPIRIT

- I. God—ONE in nature, essence, and substance—is THREE in the Personal Love exchanged between the Father and the Son as the Holy Spirit:
 - A. God the Father has eternally thought of (begotten or generated) His Son in the Love (procession/spiration) Who is the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Just as love between human persons is only known and expressed through many thoughts, words, or actions, so there is no single image for the Holy Spirit of Love, Who “is invisible, but we know Him through His actions, when He reveals the Word to us and when He acts in the Church” (CCCC #137).
 1. The Incarnation: The Holy Spirit overshadows Mary, who conceives the Word and Son of God the Father—Holy Spirit reveals the Word to Mary.
 2. Pentecost: The Apostles preach with fearless love in the power of the Holy Spirit—Holy Spirit acts in the Church.
 - C. We can say that “spiration” is the expression of God's Love (the Holy Spirit) exchanged between the Father and the Son; “INSPIRATION” for us is the acceptance of that Divine Love (the Holy Spirit) as grace and mercy, AND cooperation with the Holy Spirit of Love, Who:
 1. Sanctifies us—We draw deeper into God, and God into us.
 2. Divinizes us—Increases and perfects our likeness to God so that He is radiated or reflected by us, who are made in His image as personal “icons” of God.
 - D. This on-going “inspiration” (life of sanctifying grace in the Holy Spirit) was lost by Adam and Eve at the Fall but restored to us by the Father through, with, and in the Son, beginning preemptively with Mary's on-going life in the Holy Spirit:
 1. Immaculate Conception: Mary = “Hail, Full of Grace” by the Holy Spirit.
 2. Incarnation: Mary, made by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Mother of the Son of God (Christ the Head).
 3. Pentecost: Mary, made by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Mother of the Church—of all the members of the Body of Christ (CCCC #142).
- II. “See what LOVE the Father has GIVEN US, that we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1):
 - A. This “Love” of the Father is the Holy Spirit given to His Only-Begotten Son, given to Mary—the Mother of the Father's Son—and given to us, by grace, as children of both the Heavenly Father and of the Heavenly Queen Mother.
 - B. The “Spirit of Love”:
 1. “Builds, sanctifies, and animates the Church.”
 2. “Restores to the Baptized the divine likeness that was lost by sin and causes them to live in Christ the very life of the Holy Trinity.”
 3. “Sends [Christians] forth to bear witness to the Truth of Christ.”
 4. “Organizes [Christians] in their respective functions that all might bear ‘the fruit of the Spirit’” (CCCC #145, *Galatians* 5:22).

- III. Love from the “Cradle to the Cross” unto the End of Time—Two Templates:
 - A. Holy Family of Love: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.
 - B. Iconic and actual Birthday of the Church of Love, in Water, Blood, and Fire:
 - 1. The Cross—Jesus, Mary, John (Water and Blood)
 - 2. Pentecost—Mary, Apostles, Holy Spirit (Fire of the Holy Spirit)

TABLE TALK QUESTION

What activities, actions, or attitudes tend to hinder my ability to sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in myself or to see this reflected in the actions of others? Conversely, what activities, actions, or attitudes tend to increase my ability to sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in myself or see this reflected in the actions of others?

SACRED SEVEN QUESTIONS (T/F)

1. Jesus says in Scripture, both “The Father is greater than I” and “I and the Father are One.”
2. In God, there was a time before the Father begot His Son and before the Holy Spirit proceeded from both the Father and the Son.
3. We understand that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are parts of God the Father.
4. Because God is called Father, we know that God is of the male sex.
5. Because of her sex, a female is unable to reflect God as Father or Son, but can reflect God as Holy Spirit.
6. We understand Christian love as having good self-esteem and exercising my right to create a self-identity I find comfortable so that I can find affirming friends like me.
7. God’s Love perfects us so that we feel more justified in God’s Presence, see more clearly the sins of other individuals and groups, and more openly blame others while avoiding them in our search for holy solitude.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: “Renewal of Baptismal Promises,” “Angel of God”
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (20-35 minutes):
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Meditation:
 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you
- III. Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition:
 - A. Did I call upon the Holy Spirit and my guardian angel to help me to notice and respond to the movements and actions of the Holy Spirit of Love in me and in others?
 - B. Did I cooperate with the movements and actions of the Holy Spirit in myself to love God and others, or did I resist these inspirations?
 - C. Did I cooperate with the movements and actions of the Holy Spirit in others to help them, and me, to share and experience the love of God and neighbor, or did I ignore others’ inspirations and harden my heart?

