

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE KEYNOTE (2-23-20)

COME, CREATOR SPIRIT: VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator come,
From Your bright heavenly throne!
Come, take possession of our souls,
And make them all your own.

You who are called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction, and true love!

You Who are sevenfold in your grace,
Finger of God's right hand,
His promise, teaching little ones
To speak and understand!

O guide our minds with Your blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame,
And with Your strength which never decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our hellish foe
True peace unto us bring,
And through all perils guide us safe
Beneath Your sacred wing.

Through You may we the Father know,
Through You the eternal Son
And You the Spirit of them both
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
And to the risen Son;
The same to you, O Paraclete,
While endless ages run. Amen.

BEAUTY: THE ATTRACTIVE RADIANCE OF GOODNESS AND TRUTH THAT PROVOKES WONDROUS LOVE

I. Definitions of Beauty by Two Saints:

- A. St. Thomas Aquinas: "Beauty relates to the cognitive faculty; for beautiful things are those which please on being seen. Hence beauty consists in due proportion" (*Summa Theologica*, I, 5, 4).

- B. St. Francis de Sales: “Union in distinction makes order; order produces agreement; and proportion and agreement, in complete and finished things, make beauty” (*Treatise on the Love of God*, I).

II. Scripture:

- A. Psalm 27:4

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in His temple.

- B. Revelation 21:1-3

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men.”

III. Christ makes His Bride beautiful by the Love (the Holy Spirit) He gives her:

- A. He dies for her to save her from the ugliness of sin and adorn her with the beauty of grace and the radiance of holiness:

1. Life of grace—the body loses beauty as the soul increases in beauty
2. “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (I Corinthians 15:49).
 - a. On earth—Body comes first, then the immortal soul
 - b. In heaven—First, the perfected soul, then the spiritualized body
3. All angelic and human persons in hell are “ugly as sin.”
4. All angelic and human persons in heaven by grace reflect God’s beauty.

- B. God’s gift of Love is the Holy Spirit, Whose gifts are manifestations of this Love.

1. Isaiah 11:1-3

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might [fortitude], the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

2. Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one

of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3. Sacrament of Confirmation:

a. Laying on of Hands:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
You freed Your sons and daughters from sin
and gave them new life.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their helper and guide.

Give them the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of right judgment and courage,
the Spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with wonder and awe in Your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

b. Anointing with Chrism:

(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Response)—Amen.

Peace be with you.

(Response)—And with your spirit.

TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

- I. What is the most beautiful church you have ever seen, and what made it beautiful?
- II. What is the most beautiful Mass in which you ever participated and what made it beautiful?

SACRED SEVEN QUESTIONS

Based on Fr. George William Rutler's "The Holy Spirit" (*A Year with Fr. Rutler—Lent, Easter, and Spring*, Vol. II, p. 175).

Fill in the blank: Gifts for the intellect—understanding/wisdom/knowledge/counsel
 Gifts for the will—piety/fortitude/fear of the Lord

- _____ 1. Perfects the virtue of temperance by disciplining unruly desires and destructive appetites
- _____ 2. Perfects love by enabling a right appreciation of how God's love works
- _____ 3. Strengthens ordinary courage in the face of dangers
- _____ 4. Increases the virtue of prudence to help one make the best decision in a particular circumstance
- _____ 5. Perfects the virtue of justice by helping us to render to God and to other persons, angelic or human, what is properly theirs and is proper to our relationships

- _____ 6. Perfects the virtue of hope by enhancing discernment of the divine plan in events
- _____ 7. Perfects the ability to discern and penetrate the truth intuitively

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: “Renewal of Baptismal Promises,” “Angel of God,” “Glory Be,” and “The Anima Christi,” “Veni Creator Spiritus”
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (15-30 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. When the Holy Spirit sees my soul, what does He see that is beautiful by grace, and what does He see that is ugly because of sin? What must I do to make my soul more radiant?
 - B. Do I see my life as generally radiant and beautiful or as generally dark and ugly? Do I work to make my life and those around radiant and beautiful?