



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

ALL-PERMEATING LOVE OF GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

*For this reason, I bend my knee before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he **may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now **to him who by the power at work within us can accomplish abundantly far more that all we can ask or imagine,** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

In our journey toward intimacy with God, our Trinitarian life of faith draws us to the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier whose presence dwells within us inspiring, challenging, and unsettling us to awaken to Divine Love and God's companioning presence that is always available to us. Today we are invited to reflect on our relationship to the Holy Spirit, third person of the Holy Trinity.

HOLY SPIRIT

While I have been taught about the Holy Spirit and realize the transforming, abiding presence of God the Holy Spirit, it has been in my adult years that I have consciously relied on the Holy Spirit and been drawn into a more conscious and substantive relationship. Whenever I teach, present programs, and engage as a spiritual director, I consciously call on the Holy Spirit to work through me, to awaken in the heart of those I meet, so each might hear and receive what is most needed -- as God desires.

Perhaps too often the Holy Spirit goes unnoticed, or is not understood in its more intangible, seemingly abstract person of God. After all, the Holy Spirit dwells within me and you. I have come to believe that the Holy Spirit is the dynamic love between the Father and the Son. The gifts of Baptism and Confirmation anoint me with the Holy Spirit. I am awakened to the Holy Spirit's abiding presence within my soul as pure gift to inspire, encourage, invite, and protect me.

This indwelling Spirit is at work within me and can be relied upon to help me, teach me, nudge me to be God's love in the world. This same Spirit is never finished with me. Thanks be to God for that! God the Holy Spirit beckons me to dive deep into the well of God's extravagant love and to open myself to God's love reflected in my everyday life. The abiding presence is also an expression of God's desire for deeper relationship.

Especially when life is difficult and challenging, I am consoled in the realization that ***"the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in me"*** now and always (Romans 8:11). When I reflect on this truth, I am deeply moved to realize that this is the power of God available to me, for me. That is how loved I am and we are! In this dynamic grace, I am free to live, explore life and the world with curiosity. The diversity of personalities, the beauty of creation, the opportunities to grow and stretch myself are always available and encouraged.

And when I make mistakes, strike out on my own, test my limits, and sometimes make bad decisions, the Holy Spirit is always with me, in everyone and everything helping me discern what is of God and when to step back and

reassess or seek forgiveness and begin again. Romans 11:29 is reassuringly clear: *“God never takes back the gifts given us.”*

Further reassurance comes from Romans 8:31-39 that *“nothing can separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus.”* I am at once reassured and humbled to realize that I am free to be myself, that I reflect the face of God, and that God the Holy Spirit is always available and strengthens my inner being to grow strong in the love of God. Come Holy Spirit!



Holy Spirit
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- How do I know, or sense, the Holy Spirit within me and in the world?
- What is the quality of my relationship to the Holy Spirit?

- How has this changed over my life?

For Prayer

*I/We pray to the honor of God the **HOLY SPIRIT**
recognizing that every aspect of creation
holds the Life-giving presence of God who is all LOVE.*

*May I/we strive to live in such a way
that I and the community in which I/we live
may bear the name of the people of great love of God.*

*I seek your help, Holy Spirit of God,
that everything and everywhere my life (our lives) may proclaim
the Love I/we have experienced and witness to
by our living and serving as you desire.*

Amen.

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