



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

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Holy Spirit, Who are You?

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We are in the glow of Pentecost Sunday. Soon we will be celebrating the Three Persons, the Two Hearts, and the One Body: The Trinity, the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus. What are we really celebrating in this time of Pentecost? Who is the Holy Spirit, really?

God is One. We don't have a three-headed God. But this Divine Mystery is so full that we make distinctions. Why? Because Jesus told us to. We call these distinctions personas. First, there is God who is total Mystery. This is God as Father. Then there is God as expressive Word, or Son. And then there is God as active Love. So, the Holy Spirit is the active Love of God. In other words, whenever God is actively working in the world, it is by the Holy Spirit.

Why is this distinction important? Because the very diversity in God causes God's unity. The Father can't be the Father without a Son. And the relationship between them can't be without active Love, which is the Spirit. For us humans, this is surprising, even shocking. For us, diversity usually means difference and separation. But that's the point...! God shows us there's another way...that diversity can cause unity, not separation. We can't have a Singer without a Song...and we can't have either without Singing...! So a simple way to speak of the Trinity is human grammar! Singer, Song, Singing...Speaker, Spoken, Speaking...Lover, Beloved, Loving...! The Holy Spirit is active Loving. Watch for it as the Word reveals it these weeks.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Dove, Enfold us in your wings of peace;

Water, Cleanse us from every sordid stain;

Oil, Shine on our faces of every skin-tone and slide us out of every satanic grasp;

Wind, Blow away our self-reproach, our judgments, and our despair

Wine, Intoxicate us with the joy and promise of new life;

Blood, Seal us with your Cross-Christic brand-mark,

Fire, Cauterize our love into a flaming frenzy.

Amen.

Thank you to S. Rose Marie Anthony for this month's reflections.

June 4, 2023 | Holy Trinity Sunday | Cor. 13:11-13

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." (Paul)

How can we wrap our minds around a giving God who grants grace, love and fellowship? Jesus came to grace us with his teaching. The Father loves us so much he sent his Son to wash away our sins. And the Holy Spirit came to dwell in our daily lives. With the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, we have all the blessings we need to live a holy life and share that life with others near and far. As we age and have less "oomph," maybe we need to rethink the Power of Prayer to the Holy Trinity?

June 11, 2023 | Body and Blood of Christ | John 6:51-58

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." Isn't it marvelous that Jesus chose to be among us until the end of time? So simple.

Bread, my body. Wine, my blood.

So as we eat and drink and we become one with Jesus and with one another here, we do so also with our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's be conscious of this great mystery of Jesus' body and blood. Pray always for a deep faith and understanding of the Holy Eucharist.

June 18, 2023 | 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out the laborers for his harvest." Throughout the world there are many who lack the basics of life - food, shelter, clothing. Even in the richest countries of the world, millions go to bed hungry, shiver from the cold and sleep on the streets. Why?

Today is Father's Day. Jesus spoke of his Father frequently throughout Scriptures. Jesus loved his Father and taught us all the Father shared with him. Let us pray today and this week to God the Father for all fathers and for abundant laborers to go out and harvest in the church. Jesus reminded us, "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

**June 25, 2023 | 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
John 15:26b-27a**

"With the Spirit of Truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify." On this Jubilee Sunday, we applaud the Jubilarians who have given their whole lives to testify and serve the Lord, Jesus. And remember, every Jubilee Day is a celebration for each one of us. Over this week, let us ponder how we will spread the "Spirit of Truth." There is so much falsehood and evil to overcome in our present world. But let us rejoice today and every day in the God of Jubilee who blesses and uplifts each of us.

