

Tomorrow is the feast of Pentecost. See James A. Magner's entire article...

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...in The Ave Maria for a fuller understanding of the operations of the Holy Ghost.

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Operations Of The Holy Ghost.

(Condensed From James A. Magner's Article; Ave Maria, May 15.)

Of God the Father, Catholic thought expresses itself in terms of God's greatness and power, His creative genius, and His providence...Of the Son, we think in terms of Redemption, of the Cross and the Resurrection...But of the Holy Ghost we think--hardly at all. The Holy Ghost, as someone has said, is the neglected Person of the Holy Trinity.

Nevertheless, this Third Person of the Trinity is essential in the divine relations that mark the constitution and nature of Almighty God;...and the launching of the Church shows the action of the Holy Ghost as paramount.. "But the Paraclete," declared Christ, "the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring all things to your mind, whatsoever I shall have said to you."

To the Apostles the fulfillment of this promise came upon the first Pentecost Day, while they were assembled in company with the Blessed Virgin Mary in the upper room or Cenacle. According to St. Mark, "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as it were of fire, and it sat upon everyone of them: and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they began to speak with divers tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak."

The tremendous miracle of this manifestation, however, was not the gift of tongues which the Apostles received. It lay rather in the fact that from ignorant and cowardly men, without a definite concept of their purpose or plan of action, they became men of extraordinary wisdom and courage, even to martyrdom. The purpose of the Apostolate was aroused in them like a driving fire, and their plan of action so well developed that within ten years they had laid the foundations for the Church that was to claim the entire world as its goal.

That this work of inspiration and inflaming enthusiasm should be assigned to the

Holy Ghost is meritable, when one considers the place of the Paraclete in the Holy Trinity itself...The Holy Ghost is the infinite expression of God's will, the objective personification of His love, and truly the Spirit of sanctification....

The Spirit of Holiness in God proceeds from His Divine Will. And such sanctity as man is capable of lies also in his human will, aided by grace. In these terms, it is easy to understand, why God's will in the world has been expressed in terms of action by the Holy Ghost, from the incarnation of Christ to an impulse that came upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire, to execute an apostolate for which their own native stamina and will power were unequal. From the same terms, it is evident that the Divine Patron of human deliberation, in matters of right and wrong, and in power to carry through to righteous action, is the personality of God identified in the Holy Ghost...

It is through the will also that love is expressed, for love in its deepest meaning is a movement of the will towards that which it perceives as good. In God, the Spirit of Sanctity and the Spirit of Love are one. Upon this conception of God, composite yet thoroughly integral and unified, the human soul finds its image and pattern, and from this pattern it learns the fundamental of sanctification--sanctity which seeks for the truth, but finds its final goal in the free, deliberate, and unswerving execution of what it recognizes as true and good.

The Spirit of Sanctity is stamped indelibly upon the soul in the sacrament of confirmation..But no soldier can hope for effectiveness in the service and defense of his faith, except by constant adherence to the counsel and the commands of his general. The fulfillment of the highest powers of the soul can come only through the intimate direction of the Holy Ghost. Nowhere is the desire for this direction better expressed than in the familiar prayer of the Church: "O God, who by the light of the Holy Ghost dost instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant by the same Holy Spirit that we may always love and relish what is right and just and constantly enjoy His consolation Through Christ our Lord. Amen."