



THE HOLY SPIRIT

***Who in the fullness of time anointed
the Son as Christ
Texts from the
Catechism of the Catholic Church***

JOHN, PRECURSOR, PROPHET, AND BAPTIST

“Filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb”

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." (Jn 1:6) John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" (Lk 1:15,41) by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people. (717)

John is "Elijah [who] must come." (Mt 17:10-13) The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Lk 1:17) (718)

In John the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets

John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." (Lk 7: 26) In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." (Jn 1: 23)

In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God... Behold, the Lamb of God." (Jn 1:33-36) (719)

His baptism prefigures new birth in water and the Holy Spirit

Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth. (720)

MARY, FULL OF GRACE

The Father found the place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell

Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling-place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men.

In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." In her, the "wonders of God" that the Spirit was to fulfil in Christ and the Church began to be manifested. (721)

The Holy Spirit prepared Mary by his grace

The Holy Spirit *prepared* Mary by his grace. It was fitting that the mother of him in whom "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col 2:9) should herself be "full of grace." She was, by sheer grace, conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, the most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty.

It was quite correct for the angel Gabriel to greet her as the "Daughter of Zion": "Rejoice." It is the thanksgiving of the whole People of God, and thus of the Church, which Mary in her canticle lifts up to the Father in the Holy Spirit while carrying within her the eternal Son. (722)

Through the Holy Spirit the Virgin conceives and gives birth to the Son

In Mary, the Holy Spirit *fulfils* the plan of the Father's loving goodness. Through the Holy Spirit, the Virgin conceives and gives birth to the Son of God. By the Holy Spirit's power and her faith, her virginity became uniquely fruitful. (723)

In Mary, the Holy Spirit *manifests* the Son of the Father, now become the Son of the Virgin. She is the burning bush of the definitive theophany. Filled with the Holy Spirit she makes the Word visible in the humility of his flesh. It is to the poor and the first representatives of the gentiles that she makes him known. (724)

Through Mary the Holy Spirit brings us into communion with Christ

Finally, through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love, *into communion* with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana and the first disciples. (725)

The new Eve, mother of the 'whole Christ'

At the end of this mission of the Spirit, Mary became the Woman, the new Eve ("mother of the living"), the mother of the "whole Christ." As such, she was present with the Twelve, who "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer," (Acts 1:14) at the dawn of the "end time" which the Spirit was to inaugurate on the morning of Pentecost with the manifestation of the Church. (726)

CHRIST JESUS

Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the one anointed by the Father's Spirit

The entire mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of time, is contained in this: that the Son is the one anointed by the Father's Spirit since his Incarnation - Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.

Everything in the second chapter of the Creed is to be read in this light. Christ's whole work is in fact a joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here, we shall mention only what has to do with Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit and the gift of him by the glorified Lord. (727)

Jesus speaks openly of the Holy Spirit

Jesus does not reveal the Holy Spirit fully, until he himself has been glorified through his Death and Resurrection. Nevertheless, little by little he alludes to him even in his teaching of the multitudes, as when he reveals that his own flesh will be food for the life of the world.

Jesus also alludes to the Spirit in speaking to Nicodemus, to the Samaritan woman, and to those who take part in the feast of Tabernacles. To his disciples he speaks openly of the Spirit in connection with prayer and with the witness they will have to bear. (728)

The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, will be sent in Jesus' name

Only when the hour has arrived for his glorification does Jesus *promise* the coming of the Holy Spirit, since his Death and Resurrection will fulfil the promise made to the fathers. The Spirit of truth, the other Paraclete, will be given by the Father in answer to Jesus' prayer; he will be sent by the Father in Jesus' name; and Jesus will send him from the Father's side, since he comes from the Father.

The Holy Spirit will come and we shall know him; he will be with us for ever; he will remain with us. The Spirit will teach us everything, remind us of all that Christ said to us and bear witness to him. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and will glorify Christ. He will prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness and judgement. (729)

Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to his disciples

At last Jesus' hour arrives: he commends his spirit into the Father's hands at the very moment when by his death he conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father," (Rom 6:4) he might immediately *give* the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on his disciples. (Jn 20:22) From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." (Jn 20:21) (730)

IN BRIEF

- **"Filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb" (Lk 1:15, 41) John the Baptist is "more than a prophet". In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. (717, 719)**
- **In the fullness of time the Holy Spirit completes in Mary all the preparations for Christ's coming among the People of God. By the action of the Holy Spirit in her, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, "God-with-us" (Mt 1:23). (744)**
- **The Son of God was consecrated as Christ [Messiah] by the anointing of the Holy Spirit at his Incarnation (cf. Ps 2:6-7). (745)**