



nool.us | October 13, 2019

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



“Ten were cleansed,
were they not? Where
are the other nine?

- Luke 17:17



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIESTS



FR. MICHAEL CARVILL

triumphant melody but a melody that recognizes and expresses, in some way, a certain sorrow. Very often we have heard the voice of the Lord, and we have hardened our hearts. We all know how this works - how we get an intuition of something good, worthwhile, and beautiful, and then immediately the very next thought is 'but, but, but...' and we put all the buts there, and eventually we turn away and don't accomplish the good the Lord inspires us to do. We harden our hearts. This little example of hardening of heart then, slowly but surely, becomes a sort of worldliness where Sunday Mass becomes a spiritual moment in the week, and then as we depart from the Church, slowly but surely, the mentality of the world takes over. Then we live a hard-hearted week until the next time we come, and we are moved a little bit to open our hearts and recover again. This way the Catholic world begins to look evermore identical and indistinguishable from the world that doesn't live the life of faith. It becomes indistinguishable because faith is not in action.

Today we begin our stewardship campaign with the two most vital elements of our stewardship. I truly mean this when I say if we did this right we wouldn't have to do any other stewardship because this would take care of it all. Our hearts would know how to use our time and our talent, and our hearts would know what is most important, most valuable, and precious to accomplish with our treasure. That's why we begin with this; it's not just a soft beginning. It's beginning where we need to begin with what is most vital and radical: our relationship and openness of heart with the Lord our God.

That little phrase that we repeated again and again, "*If today you hear His voice harden not your hearts,*" identifies a will of the Lord to access our hearts directly so that we really be in communion with Him. He sent his Son our Lord Jesus Christ for this reason and this reason alone: that we might know him, love him and that our hearts may be wide open before him and that the dialogue between our heart and

Dear Parishioners,

Today I would like to use this space to give you some words from my homily at 9:30am last Sunday which I believe can be useful to us as we continue our journey of stewardship renewal:

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts" was the responsorial Psalm we just heard. The melody to which it was set is a little sad; it's not a

Him would be a continuous open dialogue of love, trust, and belonging that would begin slowly but surely to determine everything in our lives. Not just those moments when we are moved that we try to cover up as soon as possible, as I just described, but that we always be open and engaged in that dialogue of faith which is prayer.

...

We know that if we cover up the mouth and the nose we don't live long because we can't breath with our lungs. We are unaware of how our spirit suffers when we don't engage in the life of prayer. So the right hand side of the card is our own personal instrument for us to keep a record of the things we are going to do to pierce through that hard crust that so often forms on our heart and makes it impervious to God. We do this through the life of prayer. We overcome this hardness of heart through setting aside some time, some moments, some gestures of prayer in which we engage and through which we open our hearts deliberately. As we engage in this practice of opening our hearts deliberately, slowly but surely we begin to discover that it is more beautiful to live with our heart open and that those voices that say, "but, but, but," are bad voices - voices that are stealing from us something that is precious and masquerading as more important things when in actual fact they are not. In actual fact, they are less important things that are trying to occult and obscure the most important thing of all which is that our soul breathe in that vital life of the relationship with God, the dialogue with God, the conversation of love between the soul and God.

Cor ad cor loquitur was the motto on the coat of arms of Cardinal John Henry Newman, who is Blessed John Henry Newman soon to be canonized. John Henry Newman had this *cor ad cor loquitur* which means "heart speaking to heart" and what he was saying with that is the very thing I am saying now: this dialogue between our little human heart, which even though it is the little human heart, nonetheless has an infinite aspiration because it is made for God. That is why the human being is something special, because the heart of the human being isn't like the heart of any other creature. Just go inside yourself in a moment of silence and check it out and you will see our heart has an infinite dimension to it. We are not infinite, but our heart somehow needs to be able to live and breathe and be at peace. It needs that infinite dimension and that is *cor ad cor loquitur*, the heart that speaks to the heart of the Lord that is purest and most beautiful love. That is why our stewardship of prayer is very important.

Have a great week,

Fr. Michael

DAILY READINGS

[CLICK HERE
FOR MORE](#)

Saturday 10/12	Tuesday 10/15	Friday 10/18
JL 4:12-21	ROM 1:16-25	2 TM 4:10-17B
LK 11:27-28	LK 11:37-41	LK 10:1-9
Sunday 10/13	Wednesday 10/16	Saturday 10/19
2 KGS 5:14-17	ROM 2:1-11	ROM 4:13, 16-18
2 TM 2:8-13	LK 11:42-46	LK 12:8-12
LK 17:11-19		
Thursday 10/17		Sunday 10/20
Monday 10/14	ROM 3:21-30	EX 17:8-13
ROM 1:1-7	LK 11:47-54	2 TM 3:14-4:2
LK 11:29-32		LK 18:1-8

BULLETIN INFO



For all bulletin submissions, please email us at:
BULLETIN@NOOL.US

The submission deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Be on the lookout for early holiday submission times.

Visit nool.us for our interactive bulletin, latest news, and more.



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PARISH TIMES



Mass Times

Monday - Friday

7:00am

Saturday

8:00am/4:30pm

Sunday

7:30am/9:30am

11:30am/5:00pm

Confession

Thursday

5:00pm

Saturday

8:30am/3:00pm

Sunday

30 minutes prior

to each mass

Adoration

Thursday

Noon - 6:00pm

Morning Prayer

Monday - Friday

7:30am

Saturday/Sunday
7:05am

PARISH OFFICE



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www.nool.us

Fax:

303-469-5172

Phone:

303-469-5171

School:

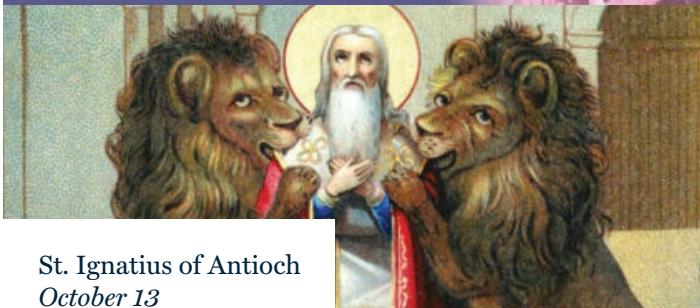
303-466-4177

**Sign up at nool.us or at
app.flocknote.com/nool**



SAINT OF THE WEEK

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE



St. Ignatius of Antioch
October 13

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday | 10/12

8:00am | † Peter Mieng by Tu and Nghi Nguyen
4:30pm | † Fred and Kay Ermisch by Mike and Joan Ermisch

Sunday | 10/13

7:30am | † Al Cameron by Stephanie and Harry Foreman
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | † Bob Kerstiens by Ann Sander
5:00pm | † Holly Peterson by Beau Starkovich

Monday | 10/14

7:00am | † Betty Passard by The Passard Family

Tuesday | 10/15

7:00am | † Angelina Baebler by Lynne Gallagher

Wednesday | 10/16

7:00am | Jim and Cyrene Brozovich by Pat

Thursday | 10/17

7:00am | † Joseph Cau and Maria Tran by Mary Ha

Friday | 10/18

7:00am | Eryn and Kris Balding by Lynne Gallagher

Saturday | 10/19

8:00am | † Maria and Marian Cwierz by The Wegrzyn Family
4:30pm | † Francis Panfila by The Family

Sunday | 10/20

7:30am | † Al Cameron by Stephanie and Harry Foreman
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | † Arleigh Dean by The Bottchers
5:00pm | † Lucille Byrum by Karen Hand and Family

Prayers for the sick and for the deceased:

We pray for all who are sick, and for our deceased relatives and friends that they may speedily attain the blessedness of heaven and rejoice in the eternal treasure of God's glory and love.

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver for Nativity's prayerline at joannefarver@comcast.net.

If you're going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at: 303-469-5171

COLLECTION COUNTERS

October 13

Colleen Yuskevich
Pat Fonio
Veronica Harris
Kenneth Thrower

October 20

Shannon Spinuzzi
Patricia Kegerreis
Genevieve Lane
Bob Johnson

SACRISTY LAUNDRY



Denise Fritz

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday | 10/13

10:00am | CGS Level I/II
10:30am | SVdP
4:00pm | CGS Level II
6:30pm | CL
6:30pm | Mark: Faith Not Fear

Monday | 10/14

9:00am | Fr. Gaitley: SGSET
9:30am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
6:00pm | SVdP
6:30pm | DC Biblical School
6:30pm | Events/Hospitality
7:00pm | St. Joe's Men Group

Tuesday | 10/15

9:00am | Endow
9:30am | TOFF
10:30am | SVdP
1:00pm | Walking With God
1:00pm | CGS Level I
4:00pm | CGS Level I
6:00pm | RE Teacher In-Service
6:00pm | Venturers
6:30pm | RCIA
6:30pm | Respect Life Ministry
7:30pm | In Ipso (Part 2)

Wednesday | 10/16

5:30am | St. Joe's Men Group
8:00am | Endow
8:00am | CGS Level I
8:30am | Book Club

Calendar Disclaimer:

Times in the parish calendar are subject to change. Sign up on Flocknote for updates.

If you have any questions regarding the events above, please contact the front desk.

10:00am | CGS Level I/II

10:30am | SVdP
4:00pm | CGS Level II
6:30pm | CL
6:30pm | Mark: Faith Not Fear

Thursday | 10/17

9:00am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
4:00pm | Nativity Nights
6:00pm | Stephen Min. Train.
7:00pm | Knights of Columbus
7:00pm | Sojourners

Friday | 10/18

9:00am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
5:00pm | GS

Saturday | 10/19

7:30am | Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am | Marian Pray Cenacles
9:00am | Spanish Bible Study
9:00am | Italian Class
11:00am | Baptisms

If you're interested in getting involved with any of the ministries hosting events in the parish, please see the information on the Parish Life board in the gathering area, visit our website, or connect directly via Flocknote.



NATIVITY
NIGHTS

2019

AUTUMN

OCTOBER 17

Hosted by
Mission Uganda

**4:00-7:00pm
Confession
Adoration
Dinner**

**4:00-5:00pm
Rosary**

**5:00-6:00pm
Singing**

**6:00-7:00pm
Evening Prayer**

Feast of St. Luke

October 17

SPECIAL EVENTS & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

NATIVITY SPECIAL EVENTS & HOSPITALITY

Do you like to entertain, have a flare for decorating, setting a table or making a floral arrangement? Would you like to meet new people and serve our parish community in a fun atmosphere? Perhaps the Special Events & Hospitality Ministry would be a good match for you! We are looking for many worker bees to share their talent for hospitality!

Please join Ilene DuBey for an informational meeting to learn more about this exciting, new ministry at Nativity:

When | Monday, October 14, 2019

Where | Weibel II room at Nativity

Time | 6:30pm

All men and women of any age are welcome to attend, and there is no pressure to join! If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, please email Ilene at i.dubey@nool.us.

TITHING

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

FROM THE FRONT DESK

Online Giving

Nativity participates in an online giving program that serves as a consistent, reliable means of making your offering to our parish.

Questions? Suzie at:
s.sloan@nool.us

To give online:

- 1) Go to nool.us
- 2) Click 'Donate' in the main menu
- 3) Complete the registration



We, here at Nativity, would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish family! Thank you for joining us and welcome to Nativity:

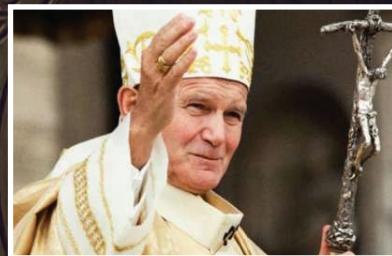
Thomas, Christine, Benjamin; Torin, Sarah, Allison, Claire, Evan; Abby; Elizabeth; Jason, Stacie, Addison, Emerson, Jackson; Adam, Elizabeth, Aidan; Robert; Jay, Kris, Alyssa, Evan, Noah; Josh; Stefan, Mariana, Alex, Paul; James, Debra; James, Denise; David, Nicole, Addison, Paxton, Ryker; Valerie, Mia; Andrew; Caleb, Lauren, Benjamin, Helen, William; Anne, Rylee; Fay!

CHAPEL OF THE THREE PATRONS *Nativity's Adoration Chapel*

The Chapel of the Three Patrons is now open to Non-scheduled adorers from 2:00-8:00pm, Sunday and 8:00am - 8:00pm, Monday-Wednesday.

Committed adorers are urgently needed for the following hours:

SUN	MON	THU
11:00am	2:00am	6:00pm
12:00pm		8:00pm
1:00pm		



"This is the wonderful truth, my dear friends: the Word, which became flesh two thousand years ago is present today in the Eucharist."
- St. John Paul II

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION

The Career Development Office at the University of Colorado Law School is hiring a part-time office assistant, 30 hours a week, who would work 10 months out of the year, July 15 - May 15. This would be a great job for a parent with school-age kids who wants to work while their kids are in school, for instance. For more information, please contact Annie Fogleman, Office Manager at the Career Development Office, at annie.fogleman@colorado.edu and be sure to mention where you saw this ad.

CHARITABLE GIVING

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY | October 20

By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church, called to share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith - a Pontifical Mission Society. Let us join our hearts in the prayer of our Holy Father for this special moment for the Missions:

"May the love for the Church's Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, 'grow ever stronger!"

As a tithing parish, Nativity is donating \$2,000 in addition to the offertory collection from the parish tithing fund.

We Adore Him

Eucharistic Adoration scheduling made easy

Please help us ensure the Blessed Sacrament is always accompanied. Sign-up to adore at:

nativity.weadorehim.com

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE



flocknote

Nativity's main communication tool

Please join our Adoration Flocknote list for all of the latest updates and information at:

flocknote.com/nool/adoration



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)



Nativity Restaurant 'Knights'

The next Restaurant Knight is Tuesday, October 15 at Chipotle, Westminster. Be sure to mention that you are with Nativity at checkout - a portion of the proceeds come back to the school.



Nativity and Papa John's

Next time you order pizza, choose Papa John's and give back to Catholic Charities. Papa Johns provides 40% off all orders all the time using promo code *CCDenver*, and Catholic Charities will earn 10% of proceeds.

School Volunteering

We invite our parish community to share your talents with our school. We are looking for volunteers for any day and time to visit our classes, read to our students, help with math facts, and much more. All that is required is a background check and SET training.

Call or stop into the school office if you'd like to help out.



WOMEN'S GUILD



HOPE CORNER



NATIVITY CRAFT FAIR | November 9-10

The Nativity Craft Fair will be November 9 from 8:30am - 4:30pm and November 10 from 8:30am - 2:00pm. Donations of new, handcrafted items may be delivered to the lower lobby receptionist desk area. Volunteers are needed to greet and help at the Women's Guild table and to help with clean-up at 2:30pm on Sunday. Please call Nicki Battista at 303-469-0670 or Merrilyn Sikora at 303-469-5171 x110 for more information.

Vendor space is available for this year's craft fair. Please contact Nicki Battista 303-469-0670 for more information.

RESPECT LIFE

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

FALL 40 DAYS for LIFE | September 25 - November 3

40 Days for Life has reported the 100th baby has been saved during this fall campaign.

Tuesdays | Join us to pray at the Boulder abortion clinic, where late term abortions are performed. We carpool from Nativity, leaving at 8:00am. We can certainly pray at home or in church, but God has called us to be disciples, witnesses to our faith and to the truth of life.

For more information about 40 Days for Life go to:

40daysforlife.com

SISTERS of LIFE

A wonderful resource for college students, for crisis pregnancy help, retreats, and help in healing after an abortion is the Sisters of Life. For more information, visit:

sistersoflife.org

BOULDER PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center opened in July. They offer free ultrasounds, counseling, and help of all kinds to those pregnant mothers in need. For more info, visit:

boulderpregnancyresourcecenter.com

For more resources, visit:

nool.us/ministries-1/respect-life

If you have any questions please contact:

Eloise Georgen: 303-469-8156; eegptg@msn.com

Carrie Kudrna: 720-261-7622; ckudrna@ctpower.com

Janet Carpenter: 720-939-7192; janetacarpenter@comcast.net

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." - Matthew 5:10-12

NEXT HOPE CORNER MEETING | November 4

The Hope Corner is a free mental health ministry committed to instilling hope and reducing stigma. It provides stress management and wellness tips, screenings, information, support, encouragement, faith and community based resources. The next Hope Corner will be on November 4 from 5:30-7:30pm. Please call 303-907-6499 to set up an appointment time. Everyone is welcome whether you have a question, would like a screening, wellness coaching, or have a family member with a mental health concern.

Contact Becky Kusick, MA, LPC, CPSII at 303-907-6499 or at hopecornerministry@gmail.com for more information. If you are having a mental health crisis, please call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255.

TIME OUT FOR FRIENDS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS | October 15

Join TOFF (Women's Group) on Tuesday, October 15 at 9:30am in Weibel I/II. We will be doing a potluck and centering discussion around the All Saints/All Souls feasts. There will also be an exchange of children's costumes. Child-care is available for a small fee. Babies under one year old are welcome to stay with Mom.

For more information, contact Anne Gray at abcgray@hotmail.com or Ashley Suppes at Ashley.suppes@gmail.com or at 816-288-2068.

BOOK CLUB

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

RULES of CIVILITY by Amor Towles | October 16

Book club will meet on Wednesday, October 16 at 8:30am to discuss *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Anyone who wishes to review the novel with the group is welcome. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month. For more information please call Ann at 303-451-5219.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

[CLICK EACH FOR MORE](#)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

COUPLES RETREATS | November 1-3 | Dillon, CO

Sign up today to attend this upcoming weekend Marriage Encounter retreat on November 1-3 in Dillon, CO. Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early. With questions, contact Brenda and Gary Granger at 303-604-6202. For more information, please visit:

wwme.org

FROM THE COMMUNITY

CLICK EACH
FOR MORE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Respect Life Office: Archdiocese of Denver

MADE THIS WAY | October 23

The Knights of Columbus and Marisol Health present *Made This Way: Authentic Femininity and Masculinity*, a talk that will be hosted here at Nativity on October 23 from 6:30-8:30pm. This event on transcending the established norms of our culture is suitable for adults and teens. For more information please visit:

respectlifedenver.org

PETITION SIGNATURE COLLECTORS

The Archdiocesan Respect Life Office is recruiting Signature Collectors to get petitions signed to support *Initiative 120*, to Ban Third Trimester Abortions. 124,632 signatures are needed by March 2020 to get this initiative on the ballot for November 2020 elections. Trainings for Signature gatherers will be provided during the month of October. Please contact Deacon David at d.arling@nool.us to help.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING UPDATE | Week 6

Process vs Results in Caregiving:

While it is true that each module presented in Stephen Ministry training is instrumental in preparing trainees to become effective and distinctively Christian caregivers, the focus of this week's module, *Process vs Results in Caregiving*, is one of the most essential - and challenging - aspects of this ministry.

If ever there was a time for Stephen Minister trainees to say "Aha!," this module would be it. They will learn the fundamental understanding that they do not have to (and indeed can't) fix whatever problem it is that their Care Receivers face. As a result, a collective sigh of relief is often experienced as trainees begin to truly appreciate the meaning behind the motto "God to be the Curegiver; the Stephen Minister is the caregiver."

This establishment of roles is what makes Stephen Ministry possible. The concept runs counter to the strong results-oriented approaches of present-day society, which is why it creates such a challenge for Stephen Ministers. But in caregiving, the more one pushes for results in another, the faster and farther they flee.

Please continue to pray for your Stephen Ministers-in-training as they grow in their ability to provide caring ministry on behalf of our parish. For more information on Stephen Ministry or to request a Stephen Minister, please call 303-469-5171 x113 or check us out on Flocknote:

app.flocknote.com/nool/SM

TRUNK or TREAT | October 31

The Knights of Columbus Council #10961 invites the Nativity community to a Trunk-or-Treat event this Halloween. On October 31 from 5:00-7:00pm, join us in the Nativity parking lot for a family-friendly and safe event featuring classic car displays, first responders, and tons of candy!

INTO the BREACH | November 9

Men of the parish, save the date of Saturday November 9 for a day of spiritual reflection on *Into the Breach* at Mother Cabrini Shrine facilitated by Deacon Steve Vallero. More information to come.

St. VINCENT de PAUL

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

Go with Life's Flow

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."
- 1 John 5:14

One of the most difficult things in life is trying to not force the issue. For the majority of us, we formulate plans and goals in our lives, hopefully of our choosing, and work towards those. If we work hard, are honest, and show integrity, certainly our plans and desires will come to fruition. With prayer and living a life in faith, should God not reward us with anything we ask?

We know from experience this is not the case. We can be doing everything right, and yet there are times nothing seems to go our way. Or worse, what we have worked and sacrificed for is somehow lost and taken from us. Whether material things, our health, or a loved one, we stand back and ask why? What have I done to deserve this? It is an unfortunate fact that there is evil in this world. We often blame God for the negative things that happen, yet we should know that He is not causing evil. Sin entered the world, and evil will always attempt to attack the ones trying the hardest to live a life pleasing to God. We learn in the Bible of some of God's most beloved followers facing trials, adversity, sickness, and injustices. Why are we surprised when we suffer setbacks as well?

One thing is for sure, each of us has a purpose in this life and God's will is our beacon. He listens, directs, guides, and sees all that we need and where we need to be. And so when we pray, we are directed to ask all things according to His will, and then trust in the Lord and have faith as we put our troubles in His hands. By allowing our lives to go with the flow meant for us, we will be able to overcome trials and difficulties and have peace.

Thank you for your contributions. Please join us on Monday, October 14, 6:30pm at the church.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR POPE

[CLICK HERE
FOR MORE](#)



POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE

Paul VI Audience Hall |
Wednes., 2 October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After the martyrdom of Stephen, the “journey” of the Word of God seems to come to a standstill, due to the rise of “a great persecution against the Church in Jerusalem”



POPE FRANCIS

(cf. Acts 8:1). After this the Apostles remain in Jerusalem, while many Christians are scattered across other areas of Judea and in Samaria. In the Book of the Acts, persecution appears as the permanent state of the disciples’ lives, in accordance with what Jesus said: “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you” (Jn 15:20). But persecution, rather than extinguishing the fire of evangelization, fuels it even more.

We have heard what the deacon Philip did. He begins to evangelize the cities of Samaria, and the signs of liberation and healing that accompany the proclamation of the Word are numerous. At this point the Holy Spirit enters a new phase of the Gospel’s journey: he spurs Philip to approach a foreigner whose heart is open to God. Philip rises and goes with enthusiasm, and along a deserted and dangerous road, he meets a high-level official of the queen of Ethiopia, an administrator of her treasure. After being in Jerusalem for worship, this man, a eunuch, is returning to his country. He is a proselyte Jew from Ethiopia. He is seated in a carriage, reading the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, in particular the fourth verse of the “servant of the Lord”.

Philip approaches the carriage and asks him: “Do you understand what you are reading?” (Acts 8:30). The Ethiopian responds: “How can I, unless some one guides me?” (8:31). This powerful man recognizes that he needs to be guided in order to understand the Word of God. He was the great banker, the finance minister. He had all the power of money but he knew that without the explanation, he could not understand; he was humble.

This dialogue between Philip and the Ethiopian leads us to reflect on the fact that reading Scripture is not enough; we need to understand the meaning, to find the “core” by going beyond the “peel”, tapping into the Spirit who vivifies the letter. As Pope Benedict said at the opening of the Synod on the Word of God, “exegesis, the true reading of Holy Scripture, is not only a literary phenomenon.... It is the movement of my existence” (Address at the Opening of the 12th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops,

6 October 2008). To enter the Word of God is to be open to step outside one’s own boundaries in order to encounter and conform to Christ who is the living Word of the Father.

Who then is the protagonist of what the Ethiopian was reading? Philip offers his interlocutor an interpretative key: that meek, suffering servant - who does not react to evil with evil, and who, despite being seen as a failure, unproductive and is ultimately done away with, frees the people from iniquity and bears fruit for God - is that very Christ whom Philip and the entire Church proclaim! The one who redeemed us all through the Paschal Mystery. At last the Ethiopian recognizes Christ, requests Baptism and professes his faith in the Lord Jesus. This narrative is beautiful, but who stirred Philip to go to the desert to encounter this man? Who spurred Philip to approach the carriage? It is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of evangelization. “Father I am going to evangelize” - “Yes, what do you do?” - “Oh, I proclaim the Gospel and I say who Jesus is; I try to convince people that Jesus is God”. My dear, this is not evangelization. If there is no Holy Spirit there is no evangelization. This may be proselytism, advertising... But evangelization is allowing yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, letting him lead you to proclamation, to proclamation with witness, even with martyrdom, even with words.

After introducing the Ethiopian to the Risen One - the Ethiopian encounters the Risen Jesus because he understands that prophesy - Philip disappears. The Spirit takes him and sends him to do something else. I have said that the protagonist of evangelization is the Holy Spirit; and what is the sign that you are a Christian woman or man, that you are an evangelizer? Joy. Martyrdom too. And, rejoicing, Philip went on his way to preach the Gospel.

May the Holy Spirit spur baptized men and women to proclaim the Gospel so as to attract others, not to themselves but to Christ; that they know how to make room for the action of God; that they know how to make others free and responsible before the Lord.





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