

## Mary and the Holy Spirit

**721** 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.

### Wisdom 7:7-12, 21-30

Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her. I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth. I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them; but I did not know that she was their mother...I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me. For in her there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle. For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom. For she is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

**725** *Though Mary*, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men into communion with Christ: And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon, Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples.

**726** 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.

**John Paul II, *Theotokos Woman, Mother, Disciple*, p. 198-99**

*"Mary's prayer has particular significance in the Christian community. It fosters the coming of the Spirit, imploring his action in the hearts of the disciples and in the world. Just as in the Incarnation the Spirit had formed the physical body of Christ in her virginal womb, in the upper room the same Spirit came down to give life to the Mystical Body. Thus Pentecost is also the fruit of the Blessed Virgin's incessant prayer, which is accepted by the Paraclete with special favor because it is an expression of her motherly love for the Lord's disciples."*

There is a unique correspondence between

1. the birth of Jesus
2. the birth of the Church – the Mystical Body of Jesus

The person who links these two moments is Mary:

- Mary at Nazareth
- Mary in the Upper Room at Jerusalem.

In both cases her discreet yet essential presence indicates the "path of birth from the Holy Spirit."

Mary is the mother present as the "path of birth from the Holy Spirit."

- With Mary the Holy Spirit formed Jesus in the womb
- With Mary the Holy Spirit forms Jesus in your soul.

**Romans 8:9-14**, Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

**1 Corinthians 12:3**, No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

**Fr Laurentin:** What the Holy Spirit does as God, Mary does with Him: she participates with Him as the visible sign. Mary is the sensible visible presence of the Holy Spirit.

The reason why Mary has such an important role for Catholics is because Mary is the *place*, *the sign* and the *Icon* of the work of the Holy Spirit. That means the more I open up to the maternal role of Mary in my life the more I will be influenced by the Holy Spirit. Mary is the instrument of the Holy Spirit.

Devotion to Mary is to live in imitation of Jesus' relationship with Mary, as he was a little child growing up under her influence and care so that we may become more like him

**So what should we do?**

1. Entrust ourselves to Mary as Jesus did in the Incarnation
2. Live in union with Mary as a little child with his mother
3. Sit at the school of Mary each day in the Rosary