



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

Homily for April 13, 2026

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Yesterday, we heard a post resurrection account from the Gospel of John, Jesus bringing peace to frightened disciples. Today and the rest of this week we will go back to the earlier chapters in his Gospel and pre-resurrection stories. The story of Nicodemus that we just heard continues tomorrow and I will be drawing from both gospels.

Some say John's Gospel is a Christian genesis story of RE-CREATION! (Collegeville Bible Commentary) Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus is about transformation and the new life Jesus has brought into the world.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night. Night may symbolize fear of being seen by his colleagues or lack of faith or both! "Rabbi, we know no one could do the signs you do unless God was with him." Leading him and us deeper into mystery, Jesus responds, "Unless one is born from above or born again, born of water (reference to Christian baptism) and spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God, cannot enter it, is not fully alive. Nicodemus doesn't understand and misinterprets Jesus's words literally, questioning how someone can be born again. Jesus replies that what is born of flesh, is flesh and what is born of the spirit is spirit. To enter the kingdom, you have to be born again, born from above, born of the Spirit.

Being born from above is possible through the, death and resurrection of Jesus and sending of his spirit. Tomorrow's Gospel will speak of Jesus being lifted up, drawing all people to himself, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. God's love is the one and only explanation for Jesus' mission.

Jesus tells Nicodemus and us, do not be amazed that I told you, "you must be born from above'. The wind, the breath of the spirit, blows where it wills and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so, it is with everyone who is born of the spirit.

We can pray to have the spirit's life in us more actualized, but we are not in control of when, where, how or to whom the spirit is given or acts.



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When the Spirit enters a person, a profound change occurs. The Spirit becomes the sole guide of one's life. If we are guided by the spirit, we have put ourselves totally in the hands of God to be led wherever God wants us to go.

It is as life altering a change as an infant birthed into the world is radically different than the child's life in the womb, so with those born of the spirit- It' a radical interior transformation... re-birth from above!

You are still the same person, but you look out at the world differently. You look out at people and situations as God would look at them.

Those born of the spirit, born from above will, like the disciples, speak of the risen Lord and speak out against evil and injustice and all that is contrary to love. As we heard in the reading from Acts" they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

Seeing as God sees is being born from above, born again! Entrance into the kingdom depends on this new way of seeing and then living into the actions that would flow from that vision. As John writes in his first letter, "Of this we can be sure we have passed from death into life if we love our brothers and sisters. If you refuse to love, you are as dead!.

This has taught us love—that he gave up his life for us; and we. too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. This kind of loving is our witness to the resurrection!

This second week of Easter we are reminded that new life is ours in the gift of the Spirit. This Spirit renews our minds and hearts to help us see as God sees and love as God loves so we can respond in faith and not in fear. May we be open to this new life the Spirit brings! The answer my friends is blowin in the wind the answer is blowin in the wind!