

Presentation of the Lord (English)
Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Latin)
February 2, 2025
Year of the Holy Spirit

“And the Lord God called Adam, and said to him: ‘Where are you?’” (Genesis 3:9)

In previous reflections upon the Holy Spirit, we have spoken of Him as both an artist and a composer. As an artist, He molds us to become the person we were called to become. As a composer, He offers His Gifts and Fruits to assist in the symphony of sanctity we strive to play. This weekend, I would like to return to the Garden of Eden as Sacred Scripture presents a scene which may provide insight concerning our current spiritual state.

Have we not, at one time or another, questioned God’s activity or His guidance in our lives? We may have felt His Presence as being distant or removed from us. Some might even doubt His Love for them as they listened to others who, for lack of a better example, present their relationship with God as “being so very easy.” Please do not think yourself alone if you have either felt or thought this way. Even the greatest of saints had moments such as these. Our relationship with God is different. Sacred Scripture presents these moments as a result of the fall of Adam. Although Genesis conveys this experience in story form, our relationship with God has changed.

When he was created, God gave Adam everything he would require to know, love and serve Him. Adam was created in the image of God. God’s image is one of self-giving love. Sin disfigured Adam (mankind) of this image. Sin, simply put, is selfish love. I choose myself and what benefits me over and above all else. Genesis has God saying to Adam: “Where are you?” I have thought this question odd because God is God and He knows everything, therefore, He knows where Adam is hiding. What if this question was not addressed to Adam, per say, rather it was spoken to His Image, His image of Self-giving Love?

We have presented the role of the Holy Spirit as molding and shaping us. I offer the reason for His doing this within us is to remake us in God’s image. Everything the Holy Spirit has done, since His coming at Pentecost, has been focused upon our assuming God’s image once more. Why would the Holy Spirit do this for us? We are called to become a visible image, a living representation of Christ. Consider this thought for a moment. If those closest to us were so transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit that they WERE another Jesus, THEN, would so many problems afflict humanity? What heights of holiness would we reach IF God recognized His Son as He looked upon us? I will leave you with this to ponder.