

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
Second Sunday after Epiphany (Latin)
January 19, 2025
Year of the Holy Spirit

“All life must needs be perfected, and it is perfected by pursuing its end. Absolute perfection means the actual attainment of that end. This we shall attain only in Heaven. There, through the Beatific Vision and pure love, we shall possess God, and our life will have its complete development.” (Reverend Adolphe Tanquerey, The Spiritual Life, p.1)

In our last reflection upon the Holy Spirit, we likened Him to a great artist. Continuing with this theme, let us now use the image of a great composer.

When we were younger, we might not have appreciated great classical music. Some may have used it as background noise when they studied or slept. Many probably gravitated toward the popular music of their generation. However, there are some who, growing older with time, have begun to appreciate this form of music. They still might not have the trained ear to differentiate between certain instruments. Nor do they possess the ability to read the notes on a sheet of music. They might not know who the composer was or even the name of the piece, but they do have the appreciation to know when that certain piece is beautiful. Their minds and hearts unite to be lifted up, floating gently upward toward Heaven.

The Holy Spirit is the great composer. Remember, He enters into our souls at Baptism and begins the slow process of shaping us into an image of Jesus Christ. A composer must be inspired by something to write a piece of music. Once the inspiration takes place, the composer seeks to use various instruments to express what he/she either feels. A single note leading to a masterpiece of sound, great works of art have been written by these talented artists. The Holy Spirit works within our souls in the same manner. He first begins by setting the pieces in place. His instruments are His Gifts and their subsequent fruits produced in our souls. Joining these together, He seeks to compose a work of art within us which will produce a unique sound. This sound develops into a song of love. While the song of Love is as old as eternity itself, it is still new and free because it is ours. Our song of love. Our expression of love never to be reproduced in the same manner throughout eternity. For this song to be perfect, we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We must allow the Holy Spirit to have free and full reign within our hearts. When we do this, He is able to harmonize our God given faculties, along with His Gifts, to produce that song of Love called Sanctity. This process of combing all the moving pieces of ourselves into our song will take time. Great works of art are never hurried. The time it will take with us will depend upon how many times we will become our own interruptions and distractions. Yet, the Holy Spirit will patiently wait and slowly work within each of us till we sing of the Love of God as our unique expression of His Son.