Scripture Context Jn 3: 1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Scripture Reflection:

Jesus accepts Nicodemus, even though his faith is not strong enough for him to be seen in daylight as a follower. We know that after Jesus death, his faith has grown so strong, that he is one of the two who ensures that Jesus is buried with dignity, even though it was dangerous to do so.

Nicodemus says that he believes in Jesus because of what he does; Jesus later says that we come to know the Spirit, too, because of what he leads people to do.

Some of the key images from the theme:

Freedom of God We must listen for and seek God; often in surprising places.

The Spirit is found “in the gentle breeze” and also in “the mighty wind” of Pentecost

We must be on the alert to where the Spirit is moving.

The word Spirit comes from the Greek “spiro” to breathe: to inspire; to live; to create.

The Spirit can be described as “the Breath of God” who at the beginning of time, “breathed over the waters” and brought life from darkness.

The Spirit (ruah in Hebrew is a feminine word). She is described as the love that exists between the Father and the Son. She is loving consoler, giver of wisdom and courage.
Contemporary theme:

This theme reminds us that the Church has been blessed with a new Pope who wants us to “read the signs” of our times and responds to them. We are called to take “the joy of the Gospel” to a world that is lacking in hope, in love and in faith. It is the Spirit who will show us the ways in which we are called to respond to the Spirit’s inspiration.

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