



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming." -John 16:12-13

"Keep listening to the Spirit," Jesus is saying. "This is how we will continue the conversation."

As Christians reading today's gospel passage, we are like the Johannine community who did not know Jesus in bodily form but are invited to relate to God via the Spirit. We might take guidance from St. Benedict who encouraged, "Listen...with the ear of your heart."

And where do we find the Spirit to whom we are to listen? Paul declares in the first reading, that God "is not far from any one of us." Today's psalm response echoes this sentiment that God is present in creation: "Heaven and earth are full of your glory," it declares. So where are we to find the Spirit? Potentially everywhere! God's revelation is ongoing, in the world *around* us and *in* us.

Thank goodness we have not been left alone, but rather have the Spirit helping us to address the wounds of our personal and communal lives, be they wounds of abuse, illness, racism, unjust government, and more. The "befriending Spirit*" will help us carry on the work of Christ.

Today's readings offer consolation to those of us who may be weary followers of the Way. As we cultivate the art of listening with the ear of our hearts, we will better hear the Spirit's voice to help us navigate the challenges we face. Moreover, once we hear where the Spirit is guiding us, may we pray for the courage to go where She leads! God's conversation with us continues, indeed!

**The beautiful description of the "befriending Spirit" comes from the Vatican II document, [Gaudium et Spes](#).*

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This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org