

Analogy of Breath and Spirit Second Week of Easter Tuesday, April 30, 2019
Acts:4:32-37; **Jn 3:7b-15** (St. Pius V, pope) (We breathe in God, the Spirit of God, and it allows us to live and be alive.)

Today the reading continues the dialogue with Nicodemus in which Jesus brings up the need for a regenerated life, a life that is born from above. Again, the word “above” in Greek also means “again,” which is where the idea of “born again” comes from. But it’s actually a misnomer or rather a pun. **What Jesus is talking about is a new birth we have from God**, and as I explained yesterday, **this is the very birthing that God eternally begets of himself**. Again, we refer to St. Augustine. God eternally begets himself. And in time now can do it as often as possible, **as often as people allow him to beget himself in them**, each of us then becoming truly in this sense a mother of God. Jesus already said at one point, “Who is my mother or my brothers or my sisters? The one who does the will of my Father.” So the will of the Father is to be begotten and **become like him in everything, in goodness, in generosity, in love, in care, in mercy**, and so on. That’s the agenda that Jesus is laying out before Nicodemus, and he finds it simply unbelievable. Well it is from a purely earthly point of view, which is why Jesus says, “If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?”

Now these are really heavenly things coming to earth. The point is he is using this word breath—**breath, wind, spirit same word in Greek**. So again it’s an illusion. It’s a play with words. **The wind blows; breathing spirates. We have the wind in us. This is a perfect analogy of how the Spirit dwells within us**. We know the wind is out there. We know the atmosphere is absolutely necessary for our life because we breathe it in; we breathe out exhaust. And we constantly need this, although it’s invisible. Were it not to be there, we would die. We cannot breathe the atmosphere on any other planet, only this one. **And we are, by the way, damaging the atmosphere on our planet by all the stuff we are putting into it**. Pretty soon the natural processes that are supposed to clean it up won’t be able to work at all, and then we will all die. And this is just according to nature itself. Well this is an analogy to how we live in God. God, again, is everywhere just like the wind but invisible, and yet **we breathe in God, the Spirit of God, and it allows us to live and be alive**, not simply in a physical sense but now in the second sense, **divinely alive, eternally alive**, alive in a way that can never be diminished. That’s what he was trying to say to Nicodemus.