

Reflection Thursday 7th Week Easter 2022

Thomas Merton had a dream about a girl who called herself *Proverb*, who told him sadly that people did not give much thought to the book of Proverbs and rather disdained it. Yet Proverbs speaks eloquently of Sophia, Wisdom and Spirit. Sometime later Merton was walking through a shopping centre and as he looked at the people around him, he saw the girl *Proverb* present in everyone he encountered. Young and old, rich and poor, black and white, male and female were all salted with the Holy Spirit. In recent days, Jesus has been insisting that the love of God which is in him is also in us and subsequently in everyone. We are made in God's image. Recognising the presence of the Spirit in others will urge us to treat with them honour, dignity and respect as bearers of God. Then, if we allow them, they will speak to us of God and change the way we see the world around us with all its challenges and abuses of power, injustices and cruelty. It will help us discover the immense love within people, their generosity, compassion and kindness, the overpowering goodness of people and thus be filled with hope.

- *Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams. Saint Augustine*
- *Here the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit. St. John Chrysostom*
- *Enrich your soul in the great goodness of God: The Father is your table, the Son is your food, and the Holy Spirit waits on you and then makes His dwelling in you. St. Catherine of Siena*
- *Those whose hearts are pure are temples of the Holy Spirit. St. Lucy*
- *As the soul is the life of the body, so the Holy Spirit is the life of our souls. St. Peter Damian*