



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

I don't generally think of John the Baptist as a dreamer, or a star-gazer. But today he admits to seeing a vision: *I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him.*

Why do these biblical figures have visions and dreams, and we don't? My great Denver friend Fr. Pat Dolan thinks that modern humans have "evolved" away from the deep gifts of intuition and "seeing" that was common to the ancients. Two thousand years ago, the great Baptizer met Jesus, reluctantly complied with his wish to be baptized, and then actually saw the Spirit descend upon him.

But here's the thing: I think we, too, often see the Spirit descend. Think of your favorite homilist. Don't you "see" the Spirit descend when he digs deep into the scriptures and gives you something rich and beautiful upon which to meditate?

Watch your friends with their grandchildren. Years and years of parenting seem to have given them a sixth sense about how to listen to these dear ones, how to truly "see" them, and how to navigate their temporary whining and bring them back to that gentle place of delight and content that makes being with them such a joy.

Or think of the musicians you know. Watch them sit down at the piano and take mastery of it. Can you see the Spirit descend? Think of any person you love, really. Aren't there many times a day when you "see" the Spirit descend as they bring kindness into the world?

Make this the year when you pay closer attention to the Spirit's "descent." Chances are, the Spirit hovers over you all the time.

What person in your life seems to have the Spirit's presence always?

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