

The 'Astonishing Secret DVD is now available from Pauline Books and Multimedia
click on this link to purchase

<https://www.paulineuk.org/browse/dvds/item/astonishing-secret/5031446770610>

Daniel's Reflection for week beginning 30yh June –

Cosmic Connection of the Heart – part 2

Our mystics, physicists and theologians are combining to provide images of a vibrant, utterly free and unpredictable Holy Spirit that transcends our current and misleadingly limited understanding of its dynamic presence. St Augustine saw the totality of creation as a huge sponge immersed in a boundless sea, each tiny particle of it saturated with the ocean of the Spirit. 'I set before the sight of my soul', he wrote, 'the whole creation (stars, earth, air and mortal creatures); yea, and whatever we do not see . . . And thee, O Lord, I imagined on every part environing and pervading it, though in every way infinite . . .'

'Groaning with the world', writes Professor Elizabeth Johnson, 'delighting in its advance, keeping faith with its failures, energising it graciously from within, the Creator Spirit is with all creatures in their finitude and death, holding them in redemptive love and drawing them into an unforeseeable future in the divine communion.'

Diarmuid O'Murchu's *In the Beginning was the Spirit* liberates the Holy Spirit from our deadly doctrinal descriptions. 'Spirit', he writes, 'is the wellspring of all possibility, the restless pulsation of every movement of creation and of every desire in the human heart. It is the power of becoming that awakens every stir of imagination, wisdom and creativity . . .'

We strive for something more because deep in our hearts the Spirit lures us to do so. The restlessness within is a divine one, the fruit of the enlivening, energising and empowering Spirit, the same Spirit that blows where it wills and that never ceases to amaze and surprise us. '(It) belongs primarily' he writes, 'to the world itself, and not to any church or religion. And it is present with a cosmic passion and a personal intimacy.'

One could say that the Pentecost Spirit lives in the core of the natural universe, firing and energising its inevitable evolution, tenderly holding all creatures in their finitude and death, and urging and drawing the world forward toward an unfathomable future. In his *Redemptoris Missio* (1990), John Paul II explains that 'the presence and activity of the Spirit are universal, limited neither by space or time . . . affecting society and history, peoples, cultures and religions.'

Maybe my mother's silent wonder on that winter's evening in 1947 looking up at the stars, (cf part 1 23rd June) arose from a sense of being held by a Spirit of connecting, belonging and intimacy. 'At such moments', writes O'Murchu, 'we know instinctively and intuitively that all is one, that relationship defines the very core of life itself! And then we kneel with Pierre Teilhard in utterly personal and universal adoration.'

'I love you', he prayed, 'for the extensions to your body and soul in the farthest corners of creation through grace, through life, through matter. Lord Jesus, you who are as gentle as the human heart, as fiery as the forces of nature, as intimate as life itself, you in whom I can melt away and with whom I must have mastery and freedom: I love you as the world, as this world which has captivated my heart; and it is you, I now realise, that people, even those who do not believe, sense and see through the magic immensities of the cosmos.'

(Excerpt from Tablet article)