

life of God” (CCC, 1997). Sanctifying grace is not a substance but a vital, dynamic principle of the supernatural life in us. It is distinct from the theological virtue of charity, but it is the supernatural grace that supports and gives life to charity.

In a real sense, grace restores our human nature to its original orientation towards God. We are not brought back to the “pre-lapsarian” state of Eden, but we are in a state of human nature healed, elevated, and perfected by the saving grace of Christ. There is a vital unity between our human nature and the life of grace. St. Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274) provided the classic articulation of this unity when he said: “grace does not take away nature but perfects it”: *gratia non tollit naturam sed perficit* (*Summa theologiae* I, q. 1 a. 8, ad 2).

Our human nature is expressed through all the capacities of a rational nature made in the image and likeness of God. By nature, we have a capacity for God, but our nature, by itself, cannot achieve eternal communion with the Holy Trinity. God, though, has chosen to elevate our human nature to eternal communion with himself, the angels, and all the saints. In heaven, we experience the immediate vision of the Holy Trinity. This beatific vision is the culmination of grace. It is a pure gift of God. We cannot, however, see God by our natural human capacity. Our minds and hearts must be elevated by grace. It is only by God’s grace that we can see him as he is. As Psalm 36:10 makes clear: “in thy light, we shall see light” (Vulgate). ♦



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Queen: Encountering Mary in Time and Tradition (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2019) with Michael O’Neill.

A Religious Community Continuing the Current of Grace of Charismatic Renewal

By Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, a Charismatic and Marian Religious Community of Brothers and Priests, was founded by Fr. George Montague, SM and Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD. Fr. George is now over 90 years old. About a year ago, he moved to a Care Center because of some health issues. We miss him living with our community. His spirit and mind are sharp even though he has to



Fr. George Montague

move around with the help of a walker. In fact, Fr. George has just finished another book that will be published soon.

Fr. George has published more than 20 books. He is a Scripture Scholar and the former President of the Catholic Biblical Association of America. He combined a great insight into Scripture with the gift of being a great story teller. He taught Scripture for many years at St. Mary’s University (San Antonio) and one year at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Fr. George became involved in charismatic renewal in 1970 and wrote a book about his experience called *Riding the Wind*. He has written many books on the Holy Spirit, including *The Holy Spirit: Growth of a Biblical Tradition*; *Holy Spirit: Make Your Home in Me*; *Mary’s Life in the Spirit*; *Christian Initiation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit* (with Fr. Kilian McDonnell); and was the editor with Fr. Kilian McDonnell of *Fanning the Flame: What Does Baptism in the Holy Spirit Have to Do with Christian Initiation?*

Fr. George was a member of the National Service Committee for Catholic Charismatic Renewal and was a theological consultant for the National Service Committee for many years. He has been a speaker at many Charismatic Renewal conferences around the world, including during the few years he lived in Nepal, just north of India.

The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple continue in the spirit of Fr. George with our emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Following the beloved disciple in John’s Gospel, we seek to be fully open to the Holy Spirit, and to take Mary, the mother of Jesus, as our mother in the Holy Spirit. ♦



Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is the Co-founder and Moderator of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple; Member of the CHARIS National Service of Communion; Director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal (San Antonio).

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