

2022 Lenten Mission

The Science of Sainthood: 3 Ages of the Spiritual Life Night #3



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St. Genevieve Catholic Church



I. 3 Ages of the Interior Life in the Exodus of the Hebrews

- **The Purgative Way**

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment’” (Exodus 6:6).

- **The Dark Night of the Senses (Second Conversion)**

“The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right and on their left” (Exodus 14:28-29).

NOTES:

Sacred Art Pictured Above: The Crossing of the Red Sea by Rosselli
<https://www.artbible.info/art/large/535.html>



- **The Illuminative Way**

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day’... And the people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land; they ate the manna, till they came to the border of the land of Canaan” (Exodus 16:4, 35).

- **The Dark Night of the Spirit (Third Conversion)**

“And while all Israel were passing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan” (Joshua 3:17).

- **The Unitive Way**

“... and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:17).

II. 3 Ages of the Interior Life in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40)

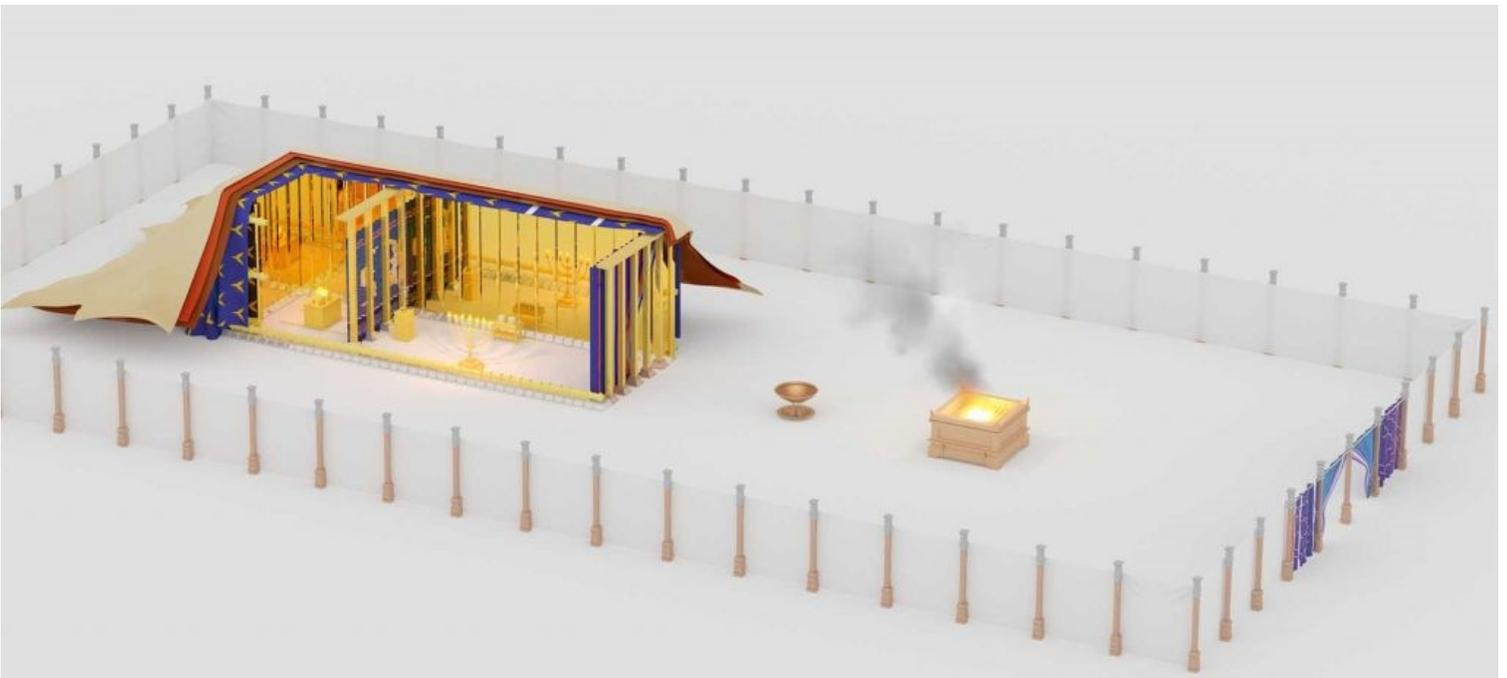


Image from: <https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/exod/exod-38/exodus-389-20/>

- **First Conversion**

“And he erected the court round the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court” (Exodus 40:33).

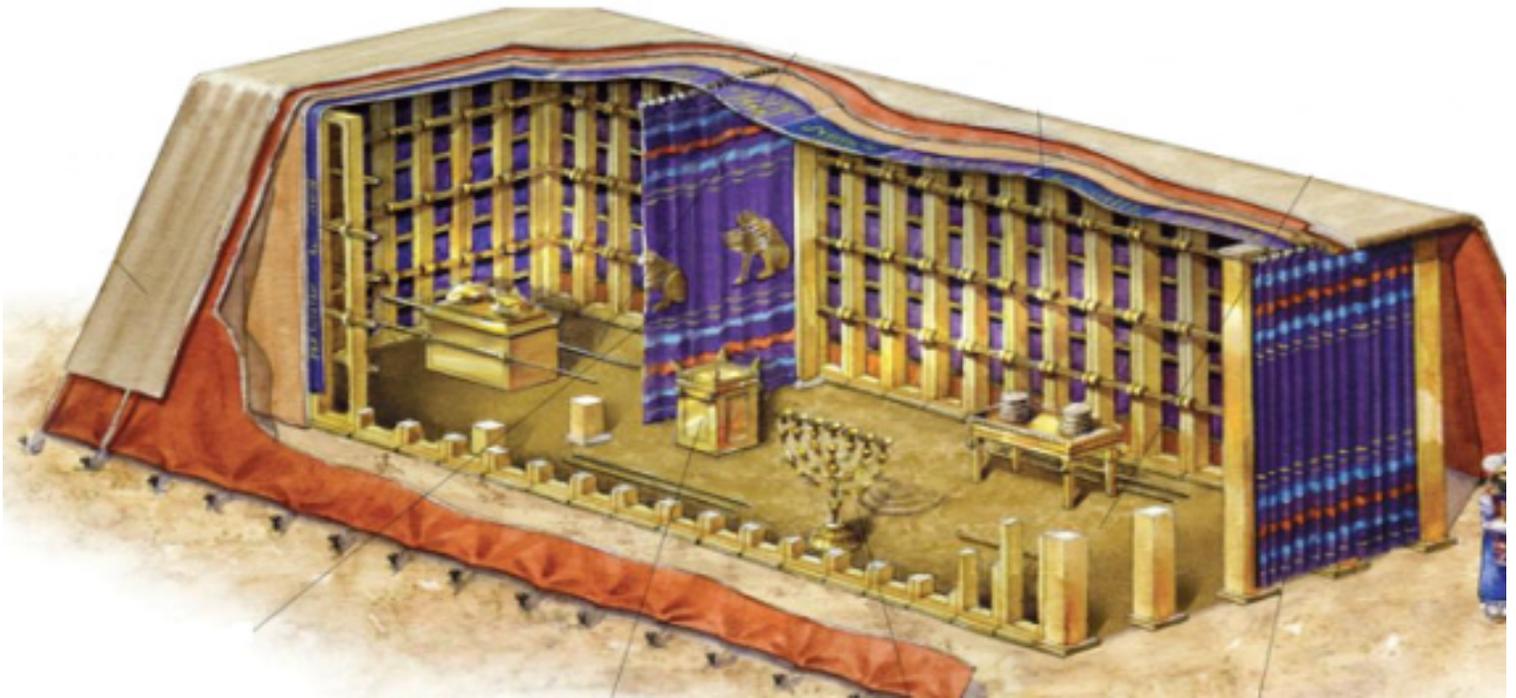


Image from: <https://jesusway4you.com/2015/09/17/bible-signs-symbols-tabernacle/>

- **The Purgative Way**

“And he set the altar of burnt offering at the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the cereal offering; as the Lord had commanded Moses” (Exodus 40:29).

- **The Dark Night of the Senses (Second Conversion)**

“And he put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:28).

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- **The Illuminative Way**

“And he put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, and set the bread in order on it before the Lord; as the Lord had commanded Moses. And he put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, and set up the lamps before the Lord; as the Lord had commanded Moses. And he put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, and burnt fragrant incense upon it; as the Lord had commanded Moses” (Exodus 40:22-27).

- **The Dark Night of the Spirit (Third Conversion)**

“and he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony; as the Lord had commanded Moses” (Exodus 40:21).

- **The Unitive Way**

“And he took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark, and set the mercy seat above on the ark” (Exodus 40:20).

III. 3 Ages of the Interior Life in the Wisdom Literature



- **The Purgative Way**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

- **The Illuminative Way**

“Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

- **The Unitive Way**

“How sweet is your love, my sister, my bride!” (Song of Songs 4:10).

IV. 3 Ages of the Interior Life in the Life of St. Peter



The Denial of St. Peter by Gerard Seghers
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denial_of_Peter

- **The Purgative Way (First Conversion)**

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him” (Matthew 4:18-22).

- **The Dark Night of the Senses (Second Conversion)**

“And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, ‘Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75).

- **The Illuminative Way**

1. “Jesus himself stood among them [the Resurrection account], and said to them, ‘Peace to you’” (Luke 24:36).
2. “Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing’” (John 20:27).

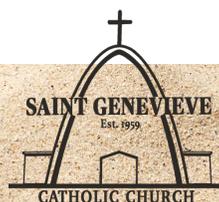
- **The Dark Night of the Spirit (Third Conversion)**

1. “So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority... And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts of the Apostles 1:6-7, 9).
2. “The Apostles were prepared for their third transformation by the fact that from the time of the Ascension they were deprived of the perceptible presence of Jesus Himself. When our Lord deprived His Apostles forever of the sight of His sacred Humanity, they must have suffered a distress to which we do not perhaps sufficiently advert... they must have had a feeling of the greatest loneliness, like a feeling of desolation, even of death” (Fr. Garrigou-Lagrance, *The Three Conversions in the Spiritual Life*, 49).

- **The Unitive Way**

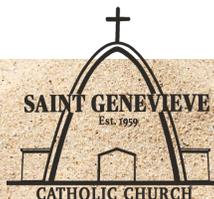
1. “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4).
2. “Many imperfections remain even in those who have advanced in the way of God. If their sensibility has been to a greater extent purged of the faults of spiritual sensuality, inertia, jealousy, impatience, yet there still remain in the spirit certain ‘stains of the old man’ which are like rust on the soul, a rust which only disappears under the action of an intense fire, similar to that which came down upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost” (Fr. Garrigou-Lagrance, *The Three Conversions in the Spiritual Life*, 58).

NOTES:



3. “The fruits of this third conversion are the same as those of Pentecost, when the Apostles were enlightened and fortified, and being themselves transformed the first Christians... The fruits of this third conversion are a true and deep humility... But the most perfect fruit of this third conversion is a very great love of God, a very pure and a very strong love... Henceforth the depth of the soul belongs completely to God” (Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange, *The Three Conversions in the Spiritual Life*, 63-64).

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