

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 7, 2021
Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #5)

“We do not create truth; we discover what is real. It is God Who is truth and the source of truth.” (My Way of Life, The Summa Simplified for Everyone, p.23)

In Book Seven of his famous work, *The Republic* (commonly referred to as *The Allegory of the Cave*), the Greek philosopher Plato offered a reflection which sought to both aid and assist his listeners as they considered the meaning of higher truths. In his story, mankind fails to grasp the reality of truth in an idea or a thing because we are too engaged with an image and not the thing itself.

I want to begin our reflection this weekend using Plato’s *Allegory*, because it speaks to where we are today concerning “Truth.” Let us reflect upon the reality of truth through our perception of beauty. Begin by asking yourself: “How do I perceive beauty?” If I were to hold up two different pieces of art and ask you which one was beautiful, how would you make a decision? We would make our decision based upon our perception of the idea “Beauty.” For you and me to choose what is beautiful or not, we must have an image of beauty to compare the two pieces of art to. In my mind, I perceive “beauty” to be (X) and therefore I judge the art by (X). Yet, my image of beauty is subjective not universal. Again, it is “my” perceived idea of beauty. For you or I to develop our idea of beauty, then there must be a universal “ideal beauty” which each individual compares their interpretation with.

Now returning to truth, there must also be a universal “Truth.” Without a universal truth, then how could we ever judge what is true or not true? It is this universal truth which guides our perception of truths found in everyday life. It is when one dismisses a universal truth and bases all decisions upon subjective truth; conflict can occur. I perceive something to be true; therefore it is truth for me. It may not agree with your version of truth, but it is mine and that is all that matters. It may not even be true, really true, but never you mind, it is “my” version of truth.

My family, when we discredit or deny a universal truth, then we deny the source of truth itself. We deny God who is Truth. By solely focusing upon subjective truths and no longer turning toward the ideal Truth, we are destined to live in an ever-changing state of false reality. What is truth for me today, may not be truth for me later. We must change our perception of reality. We must consider the people and things around us are only shadows, images of God who is the source of truth, beauty, and everything else.