

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021
Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #14)

“The biblical record shows that our Heavenly Father has kept each and every one of the promises he swore concerning our redemption—at the cost of his only beloved Son. Because of God’s grace, the gift of salvation is free, but it is not cheap.”
(Scott Hahn, A Father Who Keeps His Promises, p. 14)

As Catholics, we are guided by many beliefs we profess were revealed to us by God. One of the most fundamental beliefs we profess as Catholics is—God reveals Himself to humanity through His Word (Jesus Christ) present in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We profess these two great sources to be both *inerrant* (truth, free from error) and *inspired* (God guided the authors) by the Holy Spirit. United together, these two beautifully express the relationship God has always willed to have with humanity. For the remainder of this year dedicated to the Eucharist and the Parish, let us reflect upon what these two great living sources continue to reveal to us of God (Father, Son, Spirit) and His covenant love for each of us.

Having previously reflected upon God’s act of creation, we acknowledged that God had a goal in mind when He created. We believe His goal was to fashion a universe out of love/joy which would forever after give praise to Him. His crowning achievement would consist in creating Man in His image and likeness. Mankind would now participate in this family of created things weaving a tapestry of praise to God. And, as we have previously reflected upon, man fell. Through his willful disobedience, mankind stained this goal by choosing himself (his wants, his desires) over the perfect unity God had envisioned.

This sin, this disruption in the Divine Plan of God, would now darken man’s intellect leading to an inability to see God’s presence in creation. God, compelled by His Love for mankind, would now have to reveal Himself gradually. Sacred Scripture is one half of this new gradual revelation. Instead of reading Sacred Scripture as an ancient text book or a collection of myths or a series of historical events, we should now read Sacred Scripture as a Divine Profession of the love God has for mankind and mankind’s response to that Divine Profession.

To accomplish this task, let us state first that Sacred Scripture is not a book or collection of seventy-three books solely consisting of past events; however significant these events were upon human history. We believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God, and no word can become present without the breath of the speaker. The Holy Spirit is that breath (inspiration) used by God (the speaker) to form that Word (His Son) which speaks truth (inerrant truth) to the heart of mankind. Their statement—You were made for greatness. Yes, you and I were made for greatness. Not for a worldly greatness primarily, but for an eternal greatness as a member of the family of God. The prayerful reading and reflecting upon Sacred Scripture allows God (Breath and Word) to remind us of this despite the many times we have, continue to, and will fall in our lifetimes.