

Pentecost Sunday
Dominica Pentecostes (Latin Mass)
June 5, 2022
Year of Saint Joseph

“But when the Paraclete cometh, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, he shall give testimony of me.” (John 15:26)

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will teach you all truth.” (John 16:13)

I recently discovered a channel on the YouTube which highlights various “interesting” things taking place in some churches as seen through their own public worship videos. Some of these deal with church members and musicians, others show pastors professing outlandish gospel interpretations, and still others displaying various responses to the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. I recently watched one episode which showed a few individuals who were, I assume, “filled with” with the Holy Spirit. In just one service, you were shown, at the same time, members who were dancing both in the aisles and upon their table/altar, members were sprinting around the building, while other members were singing/crying/yelling/speaking in tongues. This occurred all at the same time in the same service. Lest I forget, one unfortunate young lady at this service came sprinting down the main aisle fully intending, as I witnessed, to leap up into the elevated sanctuary. You can guess next what was to unfold. She misjudged the height, caught her foot upon the step, and landed face-first sliding into the sanctuary. Through all of these various videos displaying of the power of the Holy Spirit, I found myself wondering if similar things, such as these, were witnessed on the day of Pentecost or were recorded to have taken place anywhere in the early Christian churches. Although I, personally, could not locate any mention of these forms of emotional display; these scenes continued in video after video. I question if our understanding of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost has “lost its way” in modern church teaching and worship. To provide both myself and you with an attempted answer, I will reflect upon one aspect of the Holy Spirit – Truth. We shall also examine in what way are we to conform our wills to this Truth. This task will take more than one weekend to fulfill so please, bear with me.

We begin with the words of Pilate from Good Friday – *“Quid est veritas?”* Our English translation – *“What is truth?”* A truth is a fact (judgment, proposition) which is in accordance with reality. If a fact is true, then it is always true. As Catholics, we hold that the Holy Spirit, being God, is Truth for God is Truth. In God, we find the perfection of all truth. In other words, God is the ultimate Truth. It is from God, who is Truth, that we begin to understand and recognize truth active all around us. Today, with the

advances of science, some state that God is a construct or a myth formulated by ancient, uneducated man. You may remember how we took our time last year and answered this continuing proposition using natural reasons accompanied by philosophy and logic. Because God is Truth, God cannot deceive; He will not deceive. Again, as Catholics, we clearly believe what God has revealed to us through His Word (His Son, Jesus) guided as we are by His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

In these past few decades, we have seen a rise in skepticism. People question the truthfulness of previously held statements. What prior generations held to be true, must be questioned now. And why are these truths questioned? Because some profess they have a right and a duty to question thinking they are free. In essence, what they are unknowingly stating is that man's true dignity is found in man's liberty; his freedom to do and say what he chooses. What did the old Burger King ad say: "Have it your way!" In this newly professed "intellectual liberty," I can now seek and profess truth as I choose to define truth. And, because I am at liberty to express my own truth, then I can now see the truths expressed by others as coinciding with my own definition of truth or, as a means to oppress my liberty, my truth.

I realize that some may be thinking: How in the world did Father Saucier go from the Holy Spirit to truth to dignity and finally rest on liberty? Short answer – I know the destination, but there are many times when even I have no idea how or when we will arrive there. Somehow, we always just seem to manage. With this in mind, we will look at this notion of dignity and liberty and how it has affected even our understanding of what it means to be a Catholic next weekend. Let me leave you with a few questions to consider this week which can prepare you for next week. The questions are these – Where does your dignity come from? Does it come from your liberty; I am free therefore, I am? Or, does it come from Truth, i.e., the Holy Spirit, God?