

***The Most Holy Trinity***  
***June 12, 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)*

Last weekend, Pentecost Sunday, we reflected upon the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth. We concluded our reflection examining how modern man perceives his dignity from his liberty. This goes against our Catholic Tradition which holds that man’s dignity is found in Truth, i.e., in the Holy Spirit, in the Blessed Trinity. Coinciding with this misguided interpretation of liberty and dignity, a form of misguided charity has also arisen in our Catholic faith. It has often been found under the guise of activities deemed as “Pastoral” and “What Would Jesus Do.” Many a Christian has sacrificed their knowledge of Truth in an effort to appease another. I say this from experience, for as a young priest I had, on too many occasions, compromised in an attempt to not injure, not offend, not bully, not make waves. Yes, many have sacrificed the Truth hoping that the other would slowly come back to where we know they should be. I ask myself now if any of those times made a difference? Sadly, I do not believe any of them did. Late in life many have realized the same thing I slowly came to see; a truth can never compromise with a falsity. If it is true, then it is always true. If it is false, then it is always false.

As we begin to understand this concept, then we can open ourselves up to the doctrine of our Catholic Church. How often have we seen or heard someone declare how the Church needs to change its teachings? If we apply reason, then we can logically map out how the Church, the Holy Spirit, operates to ensure us the liberty/freedom we desire. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus Christ to guide the Catholic Church. He is sent for He is the Spirit of Truth which will guide the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, in the way of truth. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, cannot deceive us for if He were to do so, then He would cease to be the Holy Spirit. For Truth is contrary to His Nature. Since He is the Spirit of Truth who is sent to guide the Church in the way of truth, then it must hold that the revelations given to the Catholic Church are meant to assist us in finding and remaining in the truth, in Him. Therefore, we could state that the doctrines and dogmas of the Catholic Church are true and are intended to lead you and I into a deeper understanding of truth, of God. The more we journey into truth, the more we deepen our understanding of the Catholic Church, then the less likely we would be to leave the truth, the Catholic Faith, for a false ideal. The less likely we are to perceive the teachings of the Catholic Faith as oppressive or harsh, restricting our freedom. Rather, we will find these same teachings are life giving and endowing us with true freedom. Consider it this way, the more

you invest into a thing, the less likely you are to neglect that thing. The more you invest yourself into the Catholic Faith, the more you will come to understand and appreciate Her as guided by God's Holy Spirit of Truth. The more you will cease to hear calls for the Church to change. Instead, calls will arise for us to change our independent wills to confirm with His Will found beautifully expressed in and through His Catholic Church.

All of these words I have either written or spoken have led us to conclude that to live in the Catholic Faith, to live in true abiding freedom, we must conform our wills akin to God's Will for our sanctification, our salvation, depends upon this.

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Thy Kingdom come, thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven." To conform our will to fulfill this petition of the Our Father prayer, we must first begin by humbly offering ourselves to God in all things. For many years, Catholics would daily make a "Morning Offering" before their daily activities began. I have often been in a home where this prayer was affixed to the bathroom vanity mirror so the person would be able to pray this as they prepared for their day. We should affirm our desire to accept graciously whatever good or bad experiences we will encounter during our day. Did not Job remind his wife: ". . . *if we have received good things at the hand of God, why should we not receive evil?*" (Job 2:10). May I conclude with a request? Tonight, reread Psalm 23 and offer that prayer as your offering of your will to the hands of God. This one Psalm encapsulates the humble request to conform to the Will of God, and the prayerful acceptance of God's Will as revealed by His Holy Spirit, His Spirit of Truth, in and through His Catholic Church of which we are members.

### ***Psalm 23***

*A Psalm of David.*

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*