

***Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)***  
***Septuagesima Sunday (Latin)***  
***February 16, 2025***  
***Year of the Holy Spirit***

*“The soul transformed into Jesus can do the work of Jesus, which is to glorify the Father. Thus the divine Jesus leads souls to the Father, in whom all perfection is consummated, because all things find their happiness when they return to their beginning.” (Archbishop Luis M. Martinez, The Sanctifier, p.42)*

In his classic work, The Sanctifier, Archbishop Luis Martinez wrote: “The cycle of love is completed in the Father, for all things find their full perfection when they return to their origin.” The Archbishop would later expand upon this thought by adding this cycle, the cycle of love, MUST be repeated in each soul for the soul to find its truest happiness or perfection in the Father. Jesus, through His life and death, revealed this to mankind. It is a work of the Holy Spirit to reproduce this act of love in each soul. Let us, together, explore this thought and see what we can uncover as it relates to our own spiritual growth and development.

We begin with the acknowledgement – God wants to offer us something greater than was offered “In the beginning.” It is through the Incarnation of God’s Word in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, God joins together, in a supernatural way, His Divinity with our humanity. Jesus, His Word, gives His Father praise by accepting this task. Jesus would use His time to reveal the Father’s NEW plan for humanity. This new plan would consist in our eternal perfection. This would be accomplished through our becoming one with His Son. Consider this point, when Jesus taught us how to pray, did He not say “Our Father” rather than “His Father?” As stated prior, we are tasked with becoming “another Christ.” And, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to ensure this task is completed within each of us.

We may ask “How is this work accomplished within me?” I can only answer with this statement – our souls must become like Christ and it is only by Grace this process may be accomplished. To be like Jesus, we must be filled with Grace. This is where my example of the Tabernacle or the Blessed Mother from last weekend may still be used. As Mary was filled with Grace, a point acknowledged by the Archangel Gabriel, so we too must be filled with grace IF Jesus is to be born again within us. We must be living Tabernacles housing the Presence of Him. For this grace to be present within any one of us, we must be prepared to receive it by the Holy Spirit. And, how does the Holy Spirit prepare us to receive this Grace, by His gifts of the Virtues.

I want to use an example I used earlier this week in a weekday homily. The sun is the object which provides us light and warmth. Although the sun stays a great distance from the Earth, its rays speed through space to reach us. We acknowledge these rays as being part of the sun; they direct our attention back toward the sun. It is the sun which produces the rays and not the rays producing the sun. Applying this to the Holy Spirit and His gifts of the Virtues, the work of the Holy Spirit directs us back to the Father. We can only join ourselves to Him by becoming like His Son. He must see His Son in us. As Saint Thomas would say: “The Holy Spirit manifests the Son, as the Son manifests the Father.” It is this transforming work of the

Holy Spirit which intends to bring us back into union with the Father. A union which is fully realized in the union of the Trinity. When God sees us, He sees Himself and loves Us as He loves Himself. This is because we become the perfection, humanly speaking, of the Grace of Love which is found in the Father, Son and Spirit. If we desire to glorify God, we must desire this work of the Holy Spirit to begin within us. We must be open, not placing any obstacles in His way.