



17 – 23 Feb, 2018

Piety, part 2

**‘Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me’ John 14:6**

The gift of piety needs to be renewed every day

- † The gift of piety is inherent in us since our baptism
- † Daily, we are called to allow ourselves to be driven by the work of the Holy Spirit in us and to accept the impact of His work in us
 - *‘The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit’ Joh 3:8*
 - *‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’ Isa 55:8-9*

Jesus Christ is the Truth

- † Jesus Christ is the Truth (*Joh 8:31-32; 14:6*)
- † God the Father has revealed Himself to us through Christ
 - *‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God’ Joh 1:1*
 - *‘And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth’ Joh 1:14*
 - *‘He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation’ Col 1:15*
- † It pleased God, in His goodness and wisdom, to reveal Himself and to make known the mystery of His will
- † His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature
- † In giving us His Son, His only Word (for He possesses no other), the Father spoke everything to us at once in this sole Word - and He has no more to say

- † He spoke before to the prophets in parts, He has now spoken all at once by giving us the All Who is His Son (*Heb 1:1-2*)
- † God has revealed Himself fully by sending His own Son, in Whom He has established His covenant forever. The Son is the Father's definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after Him

Piety is to worship God in Spirit and Truth (*Joh 4:23-24*)

- † Jesus taught us to address our worship to the Father (*Mat 6:8-15*)
- † But no one can go to the Father except through Jesus Who is the truth personified (*Joh 14:6*). Other religions and philosophies are simply man's way of justifying their sinful lives
- † It is the Spirit of God who prays through us. *'For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered'* *Rom 8:26*
- † The elder son in the parable of the lost son did not worship the Father neither in Spirit nor in Truth. He, like Jonah, did not rejoice in the Truth. (*Luk 15:1-32; Jon 4*)

Prayer

- † God is the One who takes the initiative and our prayer is a response to His love and mercy and His interference in the tiniest details of our lives
- † Prayer is the encounter with God on a daily basis; it is putting ourselves in His presence
- † This encounter involves ACTS; Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication
- † Supplication transforms the hearts, purifies the conscience and leads others to all that is good, to the Lord Himself
- † Our good acts go hand in hand with our prayers (*1 Joh 3:18; Jam 2:17*)
- † Prayer is also listening to the inspiration of God's Spirit (*1 Sam 3:7-11*)

The fruits of the Gift of Piety

- † The gift of piety allows us to be more engaged in our relationship with God
- † Piety helps us to understand more the meaning of salvation that was given to us and was made possible through the blood of Jesus Christ. It leads us to say with the apostle Paul: *'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me'* (*Gal 2:20*)
- † Piety is necessary in our daily struggle to reject doing evil (*2 Pet 2:9*)
- † Piety leads us to seek what is good and not be lukewarm (*Phi 4:8-9*)
- † 'The gift of piety further extinguishes in the heart those fires of tension and division which are bitterness, anger and impatience, and nourishes feelings of understanding, tolerance, and pardon. Such a gift is,

therefore, at the root of that new human community which is based on the civilization of love' Saint John Paul II

- ✚ The gift of piety leads us to peace which transcends all understanding, (Phi 4:7)

Saint Irenaeus wrote that 'the glory of God is man fully alive'

- ✚ The person who is 'alive', in that sense, is able to live being a child of God by adoption through Jesus Christ and, therefore, is invited to holiness
- ✚ In brief, piety is humble adoration that glorifies God and says 'Let Your will be done, on earth as in Heaven'

Bibliography

1. http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s1c2a1.htm

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world' Philippians 2:14-15

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Roman Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد،
أب ضابط الكل،
خالق السماء والأرض،
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله،
نور من نور،
إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق،
مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء،
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر،
ومن أجل خلاصنا،
نزل من السماء
و تجسد من الروح القدس،
ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات و قُبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء،
وجلس عن يمين الله الأب
أيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المُنبتق من الأب والإبن،
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
يُسجد له ويُمجد الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
ويكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين