

05/22/16 Trinity Sunday C

...When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears....

-- Just a couple of months after being named the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis reflected on this gospel in a general audience. It's important to reflect on truth because, in these days, people question whether there is objective truth and how we can know it.

-- Pope Francis recalled the question Pilate asked as Jesus was before him: *What is truth?* What Pilate could not recognize is that the Truth was standing in front of him. He could not see in Jesus' face the truth which is the face of God.

-- Of course, there is real truth in statements of faith. For example, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* contains truths we ignore at our peril. But the ultimate truth is a person: Jesus Christ, who comes from the Father and continues to enlighten us through the Holy Spirit.

-- In fact, the Holy Spirit allows us to recognize that Jesus is the Word of Truth. As Pope Francis reminds us, St. Paul tells us *No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.*

-- The Holy Spirit impresses in the hearts of those who believe the words that Jesus spoke. Those words don't just reach our heads; they convert our hearts to God when we open ourselves to him.

-- Then the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth by allowing us to enter into a deeper communion with Jesus. That's not something we can do on our own, as important as our efforts at prayer are. God enlightens us from within.

-- So Pope Francis poses these questions to you and me: Am I open to the action of the Holy Spirit? Do I pray to him to make me more sensitive to the things of God? Do I actually pray to the Holy Spirit?

-- Besides this prayer, we should take time to read and meditate on scripture (especially the scriptures we read on Sunday). We should make

use of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. We should get to know our faith by reading the Catechism. I would recommend reading the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

-- Most of all, as Pope Francis reminds us, we are not “part-time” Christians. Our faith is not something we bring to Church and other special religious events and put aside the rest of the week.

-- Once we realize that, and make those efforts to know God’s truth to a greater degree, the Holy Spirit will guide us as disciples of Jesus Christ toward the Father in heaven.

-- And, though we may not be able to produce a theological treatise on the Trinity, we will know the workings of the Triune God intimately in our lives. And that will make all the difference in the world.