

## 4th Sunday after Easter (Catholic Sun in Eclipse)

“When He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will teach you all truth. For He shall not speak of Himself: but what things soever He shall hear He shall speak... He shall receive of Mine and shall show it to you.”

1. The Word has been spoken. It is complete. It is the Christ! The Holy Ghost only helps us understand the treasures this spoken and Incarnate Word contains. Notice that the Holy Ghost does not add anything to this Word: “He shall receive of Mine and shall show it to you.” This makes the Holy Ghost utterly self-effacing and Traditional! The Holy Ghost unveils and teaches what has already been revealed. No novelties ... no new doctrines. From the Lesson by St. James we heard: this Word is from the “Father of lights, with Whom there is no change or shadow of alteration.” If the Holy Ghost does not add to or subtract anything from the Word... how much more we poor creatures. Thus, these sobering words of St. John at the very end of the Bible: “For I testify to every one that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book [here read the whole Deposit of the Faith]: If any man shall add to these things, God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from these things that are written in this book” (Apoc. 22:18-19).
2. In Quito, Ecuador, there are many monasteries in the old part of town. Nearly every major religious order of the Catholic Church had a large and thriving monastery there once upon a time... Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Carmelites, Poor Clares, Augustinians, and Mercedarians are among them. Sadly, today, these places, although quite large (several taking up whole city blocks), are nearly empty. (Let us not forget that the state of religious life is one of the major indicators of Ecclesiastical Health. Religious orders and religious life have almost disappeared in our times... A clear sign the Church is in a Passion.)
3. Due to the demise of the religious orders, nearly all of these monasteries have either converted part of their existing buildings into a museum or are renting them out for secular use. This sad reality is, of itself, a sign of the unfortunate state of things in these modern times. Although it can be edifying to visit these museums and look upon the great heritage of the

Church... to reflect upon what we used to do as faithful Catholics, nevertheless, it is also regrettable to see so many sacred items and places relegated to museum status requiring an entrance fees. Would that we could see them in use for God's greater glory once again!

4. In the Dominican Monastery, the Refectory (the place where the friars of old ate their meals) is now part of their museum. On the ceiling of this long, rectangular and very ornate room is depicted the life of St. Catherine of Siena... with the upper part of the walls taken up with paintings of the Dominican martyrs... each being shown with the instruments of his particular martyrdom... swords in the head or neck, eyes poked out, ropes around the neck, clubs, spears and so on... And there are many... perhaps around 40 or so, if memory serves. They cover all the spaces available. Unless I am mistaken, not a few of them were martyred as Inquisitors of the Holy Office (how many times have we heard about how bad some past Inquisition was but never do we hear about how various Inquisitors were brutally martyred by the heretics). In any case, this Dominican Refectory makes quite a sight to see.
5. Can you imagine looking up at these holy men as you are eating your supper? What is the message here? Simply this: *Are we eating to live and die for the Lord or are we living to eat?* These amazing paintings show us that we should long to feed our Faith ... to know our catechism more than we should enjoy eating or drinking. ...filling our bellies.
6. In the Rule of St. Augustine we hear these words: "When you come to table, listen until you leave to what is the custom to read... Let not your mouths alone take nourishment but let your hearts too hunger for the words of God." Reading is important for nourishing the soul... nourishing the FAITH and preparing ourselves for a holy death...even for martyrdom.
7. Pliny said: "live as if you were to die tomorrow but study as if you were to live for ever." St. Thomas says we should be "learned and addicted to study" (Apology for Religious Orders, p. 125). St. Barnabas wrote in his letter: "When evil days are upon us and the worker of malice gains power, we must attend to our own souls and seek to know the ways of the Lord" (OOR, 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday).
8. Yet, in these times, millions of books are in print. We have many many things to choose from. And, sad to say, few are discerning what is proper to read and not to read, especially for the young. Our Lady of LaSalette

warned us of the dangers: "Evil books will be abundant on the earth, and the spirits of darkness will spread a universal slackening of all that concerns the service of God." In perhaps the most famous of St. John Bosco's dreams, the saint saw the Church in our post-Conciliar times as a ship being barraged and nearly sunk by all sorts of erroneous books and pamphlets. When a ship is heading into stormy waters, the crew is told to "prepare for rolls!" Thus, they stop what they are doing and batten down the hatches and put up the security lines, and so on... lest lives be lost and the ship take on water and go down.

9. Again, in these times, one rarely hears the warnings that we are in the storm or that there is anything to be too concerned about. I am reminded of a saying by Hillare Belloc: *"Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, There's always laughter and good red wine. At least I've always found it so. Benedicamus Domino!"* Sad to say, this seems to be the motto of many today. Is a Catholic Sun shining at this time? Is this a time to laugh... and enjoy life? In a word, there seems to be a grave lack of Evangelical Seriousness in our day.
10. Remember the Dominican's! Those martyrs tell a different story... They show that something (the Truth) or SOMEONE is worth dying for... That there is error in the world and it can hurt and destroys souls... That now is not the time to sit back and take it easy and say "Benedicamus Domino" over a glass of wine...and act as if a Catholic Sun is shining bright... but rather it is a time to fight for the Truth that the Holy Ghost has shown us belongs to Christ alone. Not too long ago there was a debate at the Argument of the Month Club in St. Paul Minnesota over whether the books about Harry Potter could be safely read by Catholics... even children. Wait a minute! One of the main themes of these books is the use of magic... Listen to what Council of Trent Fathers in charge of the Index of Forbidden Books determine wrote on this matter: "All books and writings dealing with geomancy [earth], hyromancy [water], aeromancy [air], pyromancy [fire], oneiromancy [dreams], chiromancy [hands], necromancy [dead], or with sacrilege, mixing of poisons, augury, auspices, sorcery, magic arts, are absolutely repudiated..." Note that no distinction was made between white and black magic... No. "All books and writings dealing with ... magic arts, are absolutely repudiated" (The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, Rules Concerning Prohibited

Books, IX, TAN, p. 281). Add to this the testimony of multiple exorcists in this hemisphere about cases of possessions clearly linked to this series of books...as well as how the curses in this book work. Do not worry, we are told, these books are safe for Catholics, even for children... Nothing going on here! Move along!

11. A warning is in order here. We are living in an occult moment in history (perhaps the most occult to date)... This is clear from many signs that are becoming more and more obvious... such as the public Black Mass offered last year, the availability of occult books and the rise of Wicca as a legitimized religion. Such a situation did not just come about overnight but rather has been building up for centuries... most notably since the French Revolution. By an occult moment in history, I mean simply this: various principles and ideas from the devil's deposit of ungodly beliefs (we have our deposit of the Faith and the devil has his too) have found their way into the commonly accepted literature and forms of entertainment of this time. Many are infected with these false ideas and principles without even knowing it. This is one of the reasons the Church had an Index of Forbidden Books... to prevent this moment from happening.
12. Let us take only one example, that of Victor Hugo who wrote famous works like *Les Miserables*. All of his works were placed on the Index... why? For one reason, he supported the false ideals of revolution to some degree. But there is another reason, namely, he fell into the occult. John Senior explains how Victor Hugo was often surrounded by known occultists: "Hugo moved in the center of a storm of occult doctrine like the quiet eye of the hurricane" knowing men like Eliphas Levi and others... But the storm broke over him when two things happened... his only daughter Leopoldine drowned accidentally in the Seine and the Revolution of 1848 in France failed his expectations. This caused him to flee to the Channel Islands where he turned to the underworld for help. John Senior tells us "He lived in a haunted house where a white lady appeared at midnight. He declared that there were angels in the air and perhaps—if only he could see her—one was Leopoldine." He then engaged in spiritism and seances starting in 1853... Over the next two years he invoked the spirits of Dante, Shakespeare, Luther, Socrates, Hannibal, Moses, Moliere, Chateaubriand, Byron, Galileo, Jesus, Isaias, Chenier, Aristophanes and

others" (cf. *The Way Down and Out*, p. 65). He wrote *Les Miserables* in 1862 in which he makes PITY man's highest moral action. NOT supernatural faith, hope or charity!

13. In February of 1855, Hugo says Jesus Himself revealed to him a new religion. The Druids, He announced were the first religionists...but that it was cruel in sacrificing men. Christianity saved men from this torture on earth, in order that they might suffer in Hell (which is blasphemy!). But now, according to his revelations, we are ready for a third religion, the true religion (idem. p. 67). Is this an author you want your children reading? Is the Church so wrong in warning us of the dangers of such an author?
14. Consider the case of Helen Keller. She writes in her autobiography, *The Story of My Life* (ch. XXI): "I read my first connected story in May, 1887, when I was seven years old, and from that day to this I have devoured everything in the shape of a printed page that has come within the reach of my hungry finger tips." Although her teacher Annie Sullivan guided her some, Helen read many many things. And here is one of the results: "I must have made the acquaintance of Shylock [from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice] and Satan about the same time, for the two characters were long associated in my mind. I remember that I was sorry for them [sympathy for satan is yet another occult idea]. I felt vaguely that they could not be good even if they wished to, because no one seemed willing to help them or to give them a fair chance. Even now I cannot find it in my heart to condemn them utterly. There are moments when I feel that the Shylocks, the Judases, and even the Devil, are broken spokes in the great wheel of good which shall in due time be made whole." John Senior explains Universal salvation, the reconciliation of Heaven and Hell, is an occult principle, something Hugo and nearly all other occultists thought possible. Helen obviously absorbed these same concepts in her unguided reading. Where is this coming from... the devils deposit of ungodly ideas!
15. Even though we may not be professed religious... like the Dominicans eating in a Refectory with their martyrs on display, we are Catholics. We must start to behave as Catholics by discerning what our souls, and those to whom we have care, are exposed to at this very occult moment of history... lest we lose our Evangelical Seriousness and fulfill the words of

Our Lady of LaSalette: "Evil books will be abundant on the earth, and the spirits of darkness will spread a universal slackening of all that concerns the service of God." An age of Martyrs is now upon us... are we going to be like those Dominicans on the ceiling... or are we going to keep escaping into some dream world of never never land and end up becoming Peter Pans? To avoid this dismal outcome, therefore, let us be sure that we are well grounded in our catechism and holy faith before we haphazardly read the modern literature of men and women who are most likely infected with occult ideas... things, that are very catchy and potentially dangerous. The Catholic Sun is under an eclipse at the moment... St. Barnabas told us what do when this happens: "When evil days are upon us and the worker of malice gains power, we must attend to our own souls and seek to know the ways of the Lord." Let us be always nourishing our souls with supernatural truths of the faith so that we will live and die for the Lord.