

HOLY TRINITY– 16th June 2019

THE SPIRIT.... WILL TAKE WHAT IS MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU. ALL THAT THE FATHER HAS IS MINE: –Biblical Commentary by Father Alberto Maggi OSM

John 16,12-15

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you

For the Holy Trinity the liturgy offers us John’s Gospel, chapter 16, verses 12 -15.

The evangelist writes that Jesus said to his disciples *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. “*

What does Jesus mean by this? Those who can understand his message are only those who like him are ready for the gift of life. The disciples are still not able to give their lives for others. This also applies to the whole community of believers, for the growth of the followers of Jesus. One understands his message only to the extent that one raises one's level of love, not towards God, but towards others.

The more there is love towards others, the more divine communication is to man. But it is important here, the evangelist writes: *“I still have many things to say to you ...”* meaning Jesus speaks, he really speaks. This was so true that in the primitive communities there was for example St. Ignatius who wrote in the letter to the Ephesians *“You do not pay any attention to anyone but to Jesus who is still speaking .”* Jesus continues to speak.” He continues to speak in the Eucharistic liturgy, he continues to speak through his prophets, it takes ears and hearts to listen to him.

And Jesus continues: *“When the Spirit of truth comes,..”* This truth is nominated three times *“.. he will guide you into all the truth,....”* The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth and a guide to all truth. The theme of truth is very dear to the evangelist. Jesus in response to one of the disciples, to Thomas, had *“I am the way, the truth and the life”*. Jesus is the truth, he does not have the truth. This is important

What is this truth in the gospel? It is not a doctrine that one possesses, because whoever has the truth, who possesses a doctrine, inevitably separates himself from those who do not think like him and considers himself entitled to judge him. This truth is and is done

And what does it mean to be and do the truth? Truth is not expressed through doctrinal formulas, but through actions in which others are communicated life. Being in the truth means being in full

harmony with the dynamism of love of the creator, who takes care of the life of his creatures.. “..he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

What does this announcement of future things mean? It is not a new relationship of God on the part of the Spirit, but the actualization of the same identical message of Jesus in new ways and forms for the whole community.

The community changes, new needs and problems arise, well the action of the Spirit will make it clear, thanks to the message of Jesus, how to meet these needs. Therefore the guarantee of the Spirit present in the community is that in the face of new needs of the community, new answers will always be found. You should not give old answers, you must always be able, thanks to the message of Jesus, the only message of Jesus, to give new answers.

“He will glorify me, ..” Glorifying means making Jesus' love for his children ever more evident. “All that the Father has is mine; So it is not a new message, but the understanding of it. What Jesus and the Father possess is the Spirit, the fullness of love. “.. therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” The meaning of this very important passage is that what is God and what man is, cannot be known except through ever deeper degrees of knowledge and experience. There is one of love received and love communicated: the greater the love communicated, the greater the possibility of receiving this love from the Father.