



## ANSWER THE CALL TO HOLINESS AND DEFEAT SECULARISM

Last week’s celebration of Pentecost (the 50<sup>th</sup> (and last) day of the Easter Season) reminded Mass-goers around the world of the fulfillment of Christ’s promise to send the Holy Spirit Whom He said would lead us into all Truth (cf. Saint John XVI:13). Today, one week after that celebration, Mass-goers led by that same Spirit, celebrate the Truth upon which all others find their Origin: the Holy Trinity: three Divine Persons in one God (Catechism of the Catholic Church #189).

Ever since a *light to reveal God to the nations* (Saint Luke II:32) took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the spirit of darkness has tried (and failed) to prevent It from shining. In *Biblical Times* the spirit of darkness tried (and failed) to overcome the Light when “(Herod) ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under” (Saint Matthew II:16), and again the spirit of darkness tried (and failed) to overcome the Light when Pilate “handed Him over to them to be crucified” (Saint John XIX:16).

Those attempts to overcome the Light have continued through the centuries right up to the times in which (and the places where) we live. In our own times overseas, those attempts are perpetrated by groups like ISIS and Boko Haram, while here in the United States it is very often the ACLU and Planned Parenthood that try (and fail) to keep the Light from shining.

The liberty to express the Truth without fear of persecution is something America’s founding fathers codified in both the Declaration of Independence and the first amendment of the Constitution. That Truth (whether explicit in the minds of our nation’s founder or not) in the Holy Trinity and all the truths of faith that flow from It, propelled Christopher Columbus to our nation’s shores in 1492 *when Christ first called America to faith: the same Faith that literally sent Columbus into uncharted waters so that Christ could meet the inhabitants of the so-called New World and be present in the continent’s history* (Pope Saint John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Ecclesia in America* (22 January 1999) #1).

*Darkness has always threatened the Light, but thankfully, it has never succeeded in overcoming It* (cf. Saint John I:5). And so we see throughout every period of history, even in the midst of great opposition to the Catholic Church and the Truth She proclaims, the Holy Spirit prompting men and women to **answer the call** to full initiation in the Catholic Church with the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion such as *Gregory Jesús Cruz-Dominguez, Sofia Maribel Gonzalez, and Yehannys Maria Rosales (featured in the picture), Erika Elizabeth Benítez Ibáñez, Carlos Antonio Coreas Mejía, Joselyn Alejandra Esperanza Duran, Francisco Antonio Guerra Berganza, Carmen Celia Caristina Peña Bisonó, Juanito Pichardo Estevez, and Nolberto Valle* who became one with us at the Altar on Pentecost.



Even after full initiation the Holy Spirit prompts men and women to **answer the call** to Religious Life such as Sister Marie Meaghan PVMI (featured with Gregory, Sofia, and Yehannys) who made her First Profession of Vows on the Feast of the Visitation (30 May 2019). And while fully initiated Roman Catholic can **answer the call** to Religious Life like Sister Marie Meaghan PVMI, others like Deneen Vukelic and Elsa Rivera **can answer the call** to go “back to school’ and graduate as “missionary disciples”.



Before becoming fully initiated Roman Catholics, the stirring of the Holy Spirit within boys and girls prompts them to **answer the call** to attend a Catholic High School. And so it happened to each one of the eighteen

boys who graduated from the De La Salle School on 7 June 2019. Thirteen of those boys will be attending Kellenberg Memorial High School and five of them will be attending Holy Trinity Diocesan High School.



Please **answer the call** to *come home* on **Thursday 20 June at 7:30 P.M. in the lower church** for a presentation by Mr. David Bonagura: Professor at Saint Joseph's Seminary and author of *Steadfast in Faith: Catholicism and the Challenges of Secularism.* Mr. Bonagura will speak about the spirit of darkness as embodied by *Secularism.* "America's brand of secularism" wrote Pope Benedict XVI, "poses a particular problem: it allows for professing belief in God, and respects the public role of religion and the Churches, but at the same time **it can subtly reduce religious belief to a lowest common denominator.**"

Faith becomes a passive acceptance that certain things "out there" are true, but without practical relevance for everyday life. The result is a growing separation of faith from life: living "as if God did not exist". This is aggravated by an individualistic and eclectic approach to faith and religion: far from a Catholic approach to "thinking with the Church", each person believes he or she has a right to pick and choose, maintaining external social bonds but without an integral, interior conversion to the law of Christ. Consequently, rather than being transformed and renewed in mind, Christians are easily tempted to conform themselves to the spirit of this age (cf. *Rom 12:3*)," (Benedict XVI, *Meeting with the Bishops of the United States of America*, 16 April 2008). And that is not the Spirit that leads us into all Truth. So **answer the call** to *seek ye the Truth that will set ye free* to keep the Light shining!



## ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

BY: ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



The man who is filled with the Holy Spirit speaks in different languages. These different languages are different ways of witnessing to Christ, such as humility, poverty, patience and obedience; we speak in those languages when we reveal in ourselves these virtues to others. Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak. We are full of words but empty of actions, and therefore are cursed by the Lord, since He Himself cursed the fig tree when He found no fruit but only leaves. Gregory says: "A law is laid upon the preacher to practice what he preaches." It is useless for a man to flaunt his knowledge of the law if he undermines its teaching by his actions.

But the Apostles spoke as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself! For some men speak as their own character dictates, but steal the words of others and present them as their own and claim the credit for them. The Lord refers to such men and others like them in Jeremiah: *So, then, I have a quarrel with the prophets that steal My words from each other. I have a quarrel with the prophets, says the Lord, who have only to move their tongues to utter oracles. I have a quarrel with the prophets who make prophecies out of lying dreams, who recount them and lead My people astray with their lies and their pretensions. I certainly never sent them or commissioned them, and they serve no good purpose for this people, says the Lord.*

We should speak, then, as the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of speech. Our humble and sincere request to the Spirit for ourselves should be that we may bring the day of Pentecost to fulfillment, insofar as He infuses us with His grace, by using our bodily senses in a perfect manner and by keeping the commandments. Likewise we shall request that we may be filled with a keen sense of sorrow and with fiery tongues for confessing the faith, so that our deserved reward may be to stand in the blazing splendor of the Saints and to look upon the triune God.