

JESUS: THE TRUTH

October 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this, my second pastoral letter written during our year of preparation for our Golden Jubilee, I present to you Jesus, the Truth. From ancient days, philosophers debated the question Pontius Pilate placed before Jesus at His sentencing: “What is truth?” Pilate did not realize the answer was right there, staring him in the face: Truth is Jesus Himself.

During the rise of Greek democracy, there arose a group of philosophers known as the “sophists” (which means “experts”). Their bottom line is that they were relativists. They believed there was no objective truth, and that what is truth for you might not be truth to me. One of them, Protagoras, famously said, “Man is the measure of all things.” The famous Socrates attacked the sophists with his “Socratic method” which posed questions which exposed contradictions in his opponents. This made him none too popular. In a famous painting, he is seen drinking hemlock, his punishment for not renouncing his belief in objective Truth. In the painting, he motions to his student, Plato, and points towards the heavens, as if to say the Truth is “up there.” Philosophy continued to develop through Plato (who believed objective truth and reality existed in a world beyond this one, but were faintly reflected here) and his disciple, the great Aristotle. Aristotle believed there was no random change in the world, but rather all change was part of a world which was made up of interrelated parts joined with interrelated purposes, guided by an ultimate Truth. Ethically, he believed we live our fullest lives when we observe a “golden mean,” not going to an extreme either way with a given trait or virtue.

These Greeks, especially Aristotle, inspired Thomas Aquinas and the other Scholastic Philosophers. Much of Medieval philosophy worked at trying to reconcile reason and faith, and believed that Truth was an objective reality, which did not change because two different folks have different opinions about it, or views of it.

Today we still see relativism flourishing in our society, aided by modern philosophers and dubious societal trends. The Truth becomes inconvenient, so people invent their own “truth”. The Truth is abortion kills a living being. Unable to bear this thought and accuse oneself of murder, a person involved in an abortion changes reality to speak of a “procedure” or “termination.” The Truth is that marriage was ordained by the Creator to establish a community of life and love and so procreation is a key element of marriage. People who wish to separate the life-giving from love-giving aspects of marriage simply invent a new reality. The Truth is that God exists and calls us to communion with Him. This is an inconvenient Truth for many, because they would have to change their way of life and follow God’s commandments, which they see as impinging on their “freedom” (when in fact they are slaves to the passions, sin, or whatever keeps them from God), so they proclaim that God is dead. Modern man (and

woman) lives in a world full of relativism. “What’s right for you isn’t right for me!” They could not be more incorrect.

In philosophy, Truth is often defined as conformity to reality. What is true is exactly as it presents itself to be.

Jesus presented Himself as the Son of God. He presented Himself as Savior of the world. He presented Himself as Lord And King of the Universe. He came as the Word of God, speaking, in His person, all we can say about God and all we should be able to say about the human race. Furthermore, Jesus’ words have the same creative effect as God the Father’s. When the Creator said “Let there be light!” there was light..and so forth until all creation was formed. When, through the sacred minister today, Jesus says “This is My Body...This is My Blood”.. what lies on the altar become His Body and Blood, broken and poured out for us. When Jesus says, “I absolve you from your sins,” our sins are forgiven. What Jesus says is true. What Jesus says, happens!

In a world so ready to accept falsehood, in a society so prone to present what is not true, but what is expedient, Christians should strive to speak the truth, act truthfully, and follow the only Truth, Jesus, the Son of God. The Bible, from page one to the end, proclaims one Truth: Jesus the Savior. The Old Testament prepares for His coming. The New Testament proclaims His coming and Paschal Mission, and looks for Him to come again. Try to take ten or fifteen minutes a day reading the Gospels. Let the Truth which is Jesus sink into your heart and soul. Your life will change...which may be why so few do this! Do not be afraid! Embrace Jesus, the Truth!

May we, as God’s People, spend another 50 years, believing, welcoming and serving, and as always, like Saint Martha, may be always be friends of Jesus.

God’s Blessings on you!

Father Al

(Rev.) Alexander Masluk

Pastor

