

## Outline of Fr. Patrick Winslow's Lecture on Lesson 27

### I. Second Approach - Pastoral Points

#### a. Happiness vs. Peace

##### i. The Christian problem with the American Dream

1. Parents often say to their children, 'I just want you to be happy.'
  - a. Founding Fathers declared rights for us such as 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'
  - b. However, they understood that the pursuit of man for happiness was an ETERNAL one.
2. The problem today is to try finding permanent happiness in *this* life - the American Dream.
  - a. An eternal, earthly happiness is not possible.
    - i. Rather, we experience glimpses of happiness in this life - marriage, love, friendship, birth of a child, achievement,...
    - ii. These glimpses are just foretastes of the happiness in Heaven.
    - iii. These moments of happiness help lead the way to everlasting happiness and provides us with sustenance to keep us persevering.
  - b. This modern 'pursuit of happiness' is a lie.
    - i. Permanent and lasting happiness is not here but in Heaven.
    - ii. What then does Our Lord promise us in this life?
      1. In this passage Our Lord say three times as His first words to the Church, 'Peace be with you.' Vv 20:19; 21; & 26.
      2. Peace is what He promises us in this life - His peace.
        - a. Not the absence of conflict (see the martyrs.)
        - b. His peace is an *eternal* peace - a transcendent, untouchable calm of the soul that sees one through challenges of life
        - c. His peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
          - i. The fruits are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.  
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#### b. Docility to the Church

- i. St. Thomas' transgression is that he does not accept the word/authority of the Church. He regards account of the Resurrected Christ as merely the human, fallible testimony of his fellow disciples.
  1. The Lord breathes upon them and gives them His authority.
  2. Thomas doesn't understand. It is not the testimony of men that he is rejecting when he rejects their account, it is the testimony of the Church.
  3. Docility to the voice of Christ in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church is necessary for one to receive the fullness of the Christian faith.
- ii. Docility to the faith of the Church regularly *precedes* our understanding of it.

1. This applies to cradle-Catholics and non-Catholics alike.
  - a. First Example - (a non-Catholic) Dr. Scott Hahn.
    - i. Prior to his conversion to Catholicism he sought to understand everything he could about the Christian faith and 99% of the time his understanding of the faith matched that of the Church.
    - ii. However, he could not fully grasp - The Blessed Virgin Mary.
      1. He recounts how he simply trusted that the Church must be right as it had been proven to him over and over again that the faith of the Catholic Church was always right.
      2. Having personally learned of the authority of the Church he chose to be docile to Her on this matter.
    - iii. Understanding could only take Dr. Hahn so far - at some point he had to submit and then - understanding followed.
  - b. Second Example - (a Cradle-Catholic) Fr. Winslow.
    - i. The first time I learn about the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.
    - ii. A Lutheran asked me how I could be a Chemist and still remain Catholic.
      1. I did not understand the question.
      2. He began to tell me what I believed as a Catholic.
        - a. He never expected to hear that response out of me.
        - b. He was confronted with something unusual to him - a docility that is part and parcel to Divine and Catholic Faith.
    - iii. My docility (religious assent) to the faith of the Church preceded my understanding of it.
  - c. Some of you may have already experienced this in this Scripture study.
    - i. Many of you have learned something that you simply accepted because it was the voice of the Church but through this course have come to some deeper understanding.
      1. Eg. The true presence of Christ in the Eucharist; the singular role of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the nature of the Mass; the divine construction of the Church; etc.
    - ii. Without your docility to the voice of the Church (which comes from Divine and Catholic Faith) you would have never come to understand as you do now.