

## MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF PENTECOST

The first effect produced by the Holy Spirit in a soul is to make it consider things with the eyes of faith

### 44.1 First Point

In today's Gospel Jesus Christ says that the light had come into the world, but the world preferred darkness to the light.<sup>304</sup> It was by the descent of the Holy Spirit that the true light came into the world, and the first effect that this light produces in a soul fortunate enough to receive it, is to cause it to see spiritual things altogether differently from those who live according to the spirit of the times. This is why Jesus Christ told his apostles in another place in the Gospel that when this Holy Spirit, whom he calls the Spirit of Truth, would come, he would teach them all truth.<sup>305</sup> He would make all things known to them by showing them not only as they appear outwardly, but as they really are in themselves, and as we can know them when we understand them truly with the eyes of faith.

Do you make use of this light to judge all visible things, and to learn what is true and false about them, what is only apparent and what is substantial? If you act as a disciple of Jesus Christ enlightened by God's Spirit, this is the only light that should guide you.

### 44.2 Second Point

The truths which the Holy Spirit teaches to those who receive him are the maxims found in the holy Gospel. He helps them to understand these maxims and to take them to heart, and he leads them to live and act in accordance with them.

For the Spirit of God alone can give us a correct understanding of these maxims of the Gospel and can inspire us to put them into practice, because they are above the level of the human spirit. How, indeed, can we ever realize that blessed are the poor,<sup>306</sup> that we should love those who hate us,<sup>307</sup> and rejoice when we are calumniated and when people say all sorts of evil against us,<sup>308</sup> that we should return good for evil,<sup>309</sup> and so many other truths entirely contrary to what nature suggests, unless the Spirit of God himself teaches them to us?

You are obliged to teach these holy maxims to the children you are charged to instruct. You must be thoroughly convinced of them yourself, so that you may impress them deeply on the hearts of your pupils. Make yourself docile, therefore, to the Holy Spirit, who can in a short time procure for you a perfect understanding of these truths.

### 44.3 Third Point

Although these great truths are so admirable and so exalted, and although it is the Spirit of God, the true Light, who enlightens souls concerning them, the majority of people understand nothing of these truths because, as the Gospel says, they prefer darkness to the light, and because they know neither the Spirit of God<sup>310</sup> nor what he is capable of inspiring and producing in souls.

The reason for this, according to Jesus Christ, is that their works are evil, and everyone who does evil hates the light.<sup>311</sup> Since the world is blinded by sin, it follows maxims entirely contrary to those which the Holy Spirit teaches to holy souls; the world is guided by these false precepts, and these are the source of its sins and the corruption of hearts.

There is nothing you should omit in order to eradicate from the spirit of your disciples the maxims and practices of the world and to inspire them with a horror for them. The more aversion you yourselves feel for the world, the more you will hate its behavior and its maxims in yourselves and in others.

304 Jn 3:19

305 Jn 16:13

306 Mt 5:3

307 Mt 5:44

308 Mt 5:11

309 Lk 6:27

310 Jn 3:19

311 Jn 3:19-20