

New Brighton, Sunday 16th October 2022

19th Sunday after Pentecost

“Put away lying and speak truth each one with his neighbour”¹

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

Away from a simple advice to live in society, this sentence from the excerpt of the epistle to the Ephesians we just heard a few minutes ago, is an invitation to holiness. To remove the lie in our speech and action, to keep our given word, is a condition to live in a human society, and a consequence of christian unity and charity.

If lies is living between us, we cannot trust anymore anyone. One of the most common tricks of the person who is gangrened with curiosity is to say something wrong in order to get the truth, sometimes hidden by someone else. Here we can find one of the numerous roots of gossip this terrible sickness of the soul, which corrupt any soul giving up into it, and rots the bonds of charity, which unites the Christian society.

The liar, the backbiter is a thief. He steals the truth from someone and distort it to ruin the reputation of his enemy. And all of us knows whom we are looking like when we are doing such things. Jesus himself told us, who is the father of all liars: Satan. He's the one who distort anything he sees, presenting bad things under a veil of false appearance of good, trapping us in his nets. And unfortunately, we fail, miserably, most of the time.²

Gossip belongs to lazy people who haven't got anything else to do, but to listen, report and distort anything they hear and see. The lazy man, not living from his work, becomes a thief, stealing what's not his. Do not think none of us is spared from that evil. It's our concern, all of us, as it regards our salvation.

The truth, opposite to the lie, is making us looking like our creator. Holiness is a participation to divine life. “The Holiness, which is God, is his very truth, living, and harmonious, which is no other than the admirable concerts of the three Divine Persons United in love.”³

To share with us these treasures in a more obvious, easier and understandable way, God took our flesh and dwelt amongst us. The word became flesh and was given to us to be the source of life and love for our souls. He communicates himself in our intimacy and unveils for us, the mystery of his divine life, throughout the act of faith.

Truth is truly given to us if we receive such a treasure. How is it possible we keep reliefs of our old life of sin? How can we still have a part for the wrong?

¹ Eph, IV, 25

² Dome Delatte, The Epistles of St Paul, Epistle to the Ephesians

³ Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 19th Sunday after Pentecost

The evil is a lack of good. If we are given the good, the hole left by evil is repaired and filled.

God doesn't offer half of his friendship. It generously gives everything.

“May they all be one, as thou, Father, in me, and I in thee, said this Jesus of ours, to his Eternal Father: that they, also, may be one in us.”

“Here we have, and said by our Lord himself, the simple, but fruitful foundation, of christian dogma and morals. By that sublime prayer, he explained what he had previously been saying: I sanctify myself for them, that they, also, may be sanctified in Truth.”⁴

If we are living in truth, we will be found in grace by our sovereign judge. We will be found, dressed by Jesus, with the white vestment of innocent and truth, which will allow us to sing and praise him for eternity.

At the contrary, if we bind ourselves with the ties of lies, we will not be found with the vestments of innocence, this festive garment requested to enter the room, as said in today's gospel. Look at that man: he remains silent. Gossip and lie will make you silent in front of the sovereign judge. Nothing, nobody will be able to stand for you if you gave up in lies and fight against the truth, taking a wrong pleasure in false talking and distorting of the truth.

If you rejected God in your life, if you rejected the truth, He will not know you in Heaven.

Let's listen properly to the word of the Lord whispered this morning to us: “Incline your ear to the word of my mouth.” Because “I am the salvation of the people, said the Lord”⁵, as we started the mass with his prayer in the Introit.

Let us obtain from his divine Majesty, by uniting our prayer with the Holy Church, that the fatal paralysis binding us in the ties of lies, which was once so cruel a tyrant over our souls and faculties, may never return, and freed by that word of truth, we may live forever in the beatific vision.⁶

Amen.

⁴ Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 19th Sunday after Pentecost

⁵ 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Introit; Ps LXXVII, 1

⁶ Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 19th Sunday after Pentecost