

Tuesday 6th Week of Easter
May 12, 2015
St. Agnes Church

Earlier in this gospel Jesus is condemned by his detractors.
Jesus heals on the Sabbath, and his opponents conclude he is not of God
because God would never violate Sabbath law.

Such “false” judgments will continue after Jesus returns to the Father.
Those who opposed Jesus will also oppose his disciples.
It will appear to the world that the disciples,
by living and proclaiming the Christian faith, are not doing the work of God.
The disciples will be condemned on the basis of this false judgment.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is right judgment.
This entails an openness to the truth.
It is essential that disciples be aware of the truth both within themselves
as in the truth they are to speak and proclaim,
and within others, as they listen and discern the truth in the words and actions of others.
Put simply: what goes into the Christian, and what comes out of the Christian
must always reflect the truth.

In today’s world, since some bridges stand solid and some bridges fall down,
science receives a claim to seriousness that religion seems to have lost.
External, practical matters grab and hold the attention of people.
Here is another development promoting science as the legitimate
and hence the arbiter of the realm of truth.
Over the past several hundred years science has uncovered facts about human existence
that have traditionally received religious explanations.

Science is not the enemy of Christianity or of any religion for that matter.
Science helps us understand the truth of the physical world.
Religion helps us understand the truth of the spiritual world.
The realm of human existence is both physical and spiritual.
One without the other is incomplete.
As someone once said: a body without the spirit is a corpse.
the spirit without a body is a ghost.
Any judgment made today that excludes either the physical or the spiritual
is a false judgment.

For Catholics, for you and I, spiritual truth is a matter of revelation.
We accept something as true because God has revealed it to the world.

What we say and do gives witness in the world to what we believe.
If we want the world to believe our lives are based in truth
we must not lie, we must not be evasive, and we must avoid deceit in all of its forms.
And as someone once said:
truth comes by unmasking suspicion, and never by closing our eyes to it.

Let us claim our gift from the Holy Spirit and exercise right judgment.