

# KRAKOW: October 20, 2015

## Talk 3

1. The Lord has been restoring the Charismatic Dimension to the Life of the Church

# St JOHN PAUL II on VATICAN TWO

“Whenever the Spirit intervenes, he leaves people astonished. He brings about events of amazing newness; he radically changes persons and history. This was the unforgettable experience of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council during which, under the guidance of the same Spirit, the Church rediscovered the charismatic dimension as one of her constitutive elements” (Pentecost 1998)

# A Rediscovery

- The charismatic dimension has always been present in the life of the Church.
- But it has formed a part of the Church's constant self-consciousness
- The charismatic dimension was not articulated in most Catholic ecclesiology
- A rediscovery of this dimension in the life of the Church, with accompanying theological reflection

# THE INSTITUTIONAL & THE CHARISMATIC

- “The institutional and charismatic aspects are co-essential as it were to the Church's constitution.” (St John Paul II, Pentecost 1998)
- Note the words “essential” and “constitution”
- Essential - Church is not properly Church without both these dimensions
- Constitution - a better word than “nature” as it points to the structural principles

# What belongs to the Institutional?

- The institutional refers to all that was instituted by Jesus during his earthly ministry:
  - \* his choice of the Twelve
  - \* his conferral of authority on them
  - \* his command to preach the Gospel
  - \* the institution of baptism & eucharist
  - \* the power to forgive sins

- The institutional dimension of the Church is passed down from generation to generation and belongs to the permanent visible structure of the Church.
- It is what has to be there for the Church to exist

# THE IRREDUCIBLE CORE

- The Word of God
- The Liturgy and Sacraments
- The Magisterium or Teaching Office

# What is the charismatic dimension?

- The charismatic dimension reflects the unpredictability of the Holy Spirit. “The wind [spirit] blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3: 8)
- The charismatic elements come and go (though the charismatic dimension remains); they cannot be codified or programmed.



# The Institutional Needs the Charismatic

- Without the unexpected impulses of the Holy Spirit, the institutional can become dried up, routine and lifeless.
- Without the charismatic impulses of the Holy Spirit, the Church can forget the role of the Spirit in the liturgy and the sacraments

# The Charismatic Needs the Institutional

- The charismatic impulses of the Spirit need the institutional to become anchored in history, and to bear lasting fruit
- Charismatic impulses without any institutional framework easily become short-lived experiences of excitement that do not last

# In fact, the Institutional and the Charismatic penetrate each other

- We see this above all in the lives of the saints and of prophetic figures in the Church
- They come from the hierarchy (Popes, bishops and priests), from religious, and from lay people, educated and uneducated
- What begins as charismatic can start to take on an institutional dimension, and then needs to keep alive the founding charisms

# WRONG ATTITUDES: 1

## Charismatic Temptations

- Regarding the charismatic as superior
- Looking down on the institutional
- Not respecting authority you don't agree with
- Spontaneity as top quality
- Moving somewhere else immediately you run into difficulties

# WRONG ATTITUDES: 2

## Clericalist Temptations

- Regarding the institutional as superior
- Trying to control and limit the charismatic
- Regarding the charismatic as a helpful tool but not as essential to the Church
- To avoid the necessary process of discernment
- Seeing discernment as just an intellectual or theological task