

**KRAKOW October 21, 2015**

**Pope Francis**

# Talk Two

## The Teaching of Pope Francis on the Holy Spirit

# The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

- Pope Francis keeps emphasizing the creativity of the Holy Spirit.
- “The Holy Spirit creates ‘diversity’ in the Church. The First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12. He creates diversity! It’s true this diversity is so rich, so beautiful. But then, the same Holy Spirit creates unity, and this way the Church is one in diversity.” (To Pentecostal Church in Caserta, Italy, July 28, 2014)

# HOLY SPIRIT FORMS DIVERSITY

- “Differences between persons and communities can sometimes prove uncomfortable, but the Holy Spirit , who **is the source of that diversity**, can bring forth something good from all things” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 131).
- “Our God is a God who always does new things. And he asks from us docility to this newness.” (Homily, Jan. 20, 2014)

This newness belongs to the nature of God, the nature of the Holy Spirit. God never repeats himself, God does not produce clones.

We welcome this diversity as showing the amazing creativity of God. We must not think that there can be limits on diversity - this is to put limits on the creativity of the Holy Spirit.

- “He, the Paraclete, is the ultimate source of every initiative and manifestation of faith. It is a curious thing: it makes me think of this. The Paraclete creates all the differences among the Churches, almost as if he were an Apostle of Babel. But on the other hand, it is he who creates unity from these differences, not in “equality”, but in harmony.” (Francis to the Cardinals, March 14, 2013).

# DIFFERENCES AMONG CHURCHES

- We easily think of the differences between the Christian churches as obstacles to unity. But Francis is saying we should see the differences as enriching.
- The differences do not need correcting, but to be purified and reconciled. “Diversity must always be reconciled by the help of the Holy Spirit; he alone can raise up diversity, plurality and multiplicity, while at the same time bringing about unity.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 131)

# Purification of Diversity

Pope Francis may not have addressed this point directly, but he recognizes that the walk with others, alongside others, changes us all. It produces respect where there was none, it awakens love where there was none, it allows us to receive from them.

But in this walk together, we must always be attentive to the Holy Spirit, in the others, in ourselves, and in our interaction.



# The Surprises of the Spirit

- The creativity of the Holy Spirit always surprises us, because God's ways are higher than our ways as the heavens are higher than the earth (Is. 55: 9)
- We have to learn a real dependence on God
  - and always see our plans and our ideas as provisional and subject to the Lord's correction

“If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another! It is not just about being better informed about others, but rather about **reaping** what the Spirit has sown in them, which is also meant to be a gift for us.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 246).