

Talk 3

**The Holy Spirit creates
communion**

CREATIVITY of the HOLY SPIRIT

- “Are we open to “God’s surprises”? Or are we closed and fearful before the newness of the Holy Spirit?” (Francis Pentecost Homily, May 19, 2013).

HOLY SPIRIT CREATES DIVERSITY

The Holy Spirit is endlessly creative.
The Holy Spirit does not produce clones.

This teaching of Francis has a new quality about it - celebrating diversity, rejoicing in richness.

- Diversity/variety come from the Holy Spirit:
- Different nationalities
- Different languages and cultures
- Different levels & spheres of life
- Different sciences
- Different temperaments
- Different artistic, intellectual, organizational gifts

CHARISMS

“The Holy Spirit also enriches the entire evangelizing Church with different charisms.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 130).

“Something truly new brought about by the Spirit need not overshadow other gifts and spiritualities in making itself felt.” (EG, 130)

CHAOS FIRST?

- Pentecost is the paradigm for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Does Pentecost look like peaceful order?
- “For those men are not drunk as you suppose since it is only the third hour of the day” i.e. 9 a.m. (Acts 2: 15)

- “Let me tell you what I hope will be the outcome of World Youth Day: I hope there will be noise. Here there will be noise, I’m quite sure. Here in Rio there will be plenty of noise, no doubt about that. But I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses, I want the noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets” (Francis to Argentine youth during World Youth Day 2013)

“I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 49).

HARMONY OUT OF CHAOS

This is the picture of creation in Genesis 1
“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” (Gen. 1: 2).

First, creativity, increasing diversity.

Then, multiplicity being drawn and formed into unity.

“It is he [the Holy Spirit] who brings forth a rich variety of gifts, while at the same time creating a unity which is never uniformity but a multifaceted and inviting harmony.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 117).

DIVERSITY BEING 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).

Pope Francis says that merely human efforts to produce diversity are divisive, and human attempts at unity produce monolithic uniformity. (EG, 131)

We should welcome diversity and difference.

What we have to refuse is narrowness, the exclusivity, that turns diversity into division.

It may not be clear how the diversity of the others who are different can be brought into harmony. The Holy Spirit will reveal the work of the Spirit in the ones who are different and how this can be brought into harmony.

- “the unity *brought by the Spirit* can harmonize every diversity. It overcomes every conflict by creating a new and promising synthesis.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 230).
- How to deal with conflict: see EG, 227. “Blessed are the peacemakers.” (Matt. 5: 9).
- “”And he has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Cor. 5: 19)

COMMUNION

- The Christian ministry is one of **reconciliation and healing.**
- The deepest reality of the Church is **communion.**
- “Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1: 3)
- Communion in the Holy Spirit and effected through the Holy Spirit.

Christian Unity

- One dimension of reconciliation concerns healing Christian divisions.
- This is the most serious of all divisions because it most contradicts the Gospel of reconciliation. Weakens Church as sign.
- Christian divisions show that the churches are not able or not willing to believe in the power of Jesus to reconcile.

- Pope Francis is often meeting with major free church “non-denominational” leaders
- This is an example of boldness in the Holy Spirit (on both sides).
- It is going to what we have seen as the periphery of historic Christianity.
- It is bringing the dynamic of the charismatic movement into unity relations

SOLIDARITY

Solidarity was mentioned by Paul VI (*Populorum Progressio*, 44, 48) but was developed by John Paul II.

“The word ‘solidarity’ is a little worn and at times poorly understood, but it refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset which thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few.” (EG, 188).

SOLIDARITY, COMMUNITY & COMMUNION

Solidarity is to human society what communion is to the Church.

In the Church, the Holy Spirit forms redeemed women and men into communion in Christ. As communion, the Church is sign to world & society.

Community is the bridge between communion and solidarity. Christian community as leaven in human society.