

PENTECOST AND PAROUSIA

2. How to be loyal to the Lord
and to your church heritage: the
prophetic and the institutional

Context of CR

The Holy Spirit has been poured out in CR in a world with major divisions, including church divisions, of which the most serious have been between **Catholic and Protestant** between **Orthodox and Western Christians** Lesser but still debilitating conflicts: between **Pentecostal and Evangelical** between **classical Protestant and free churches**

Big Challenges

One big challenge from the beginning for Catholics baptized in the Spirit:

How to hold together the Ecclesial and the Charismatic?

How to receive this work of the Holy Spirit as Catholics?

CONTEXT OF SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Without the Second Vatican Council opening the Catholic Church to welcome the ecumenical movement, the Catholic Church could never have welcomed a movement that began outside the Catholic Church.

Another facilitating factor: the Council debate and teaching on the charisms:

- * Poured out on all members of the Church
- They belong to regular life of the Church
- They are to be welcomed (ordinary and extraordinary).

Constitution on the Church, para. 12.

CR gives to the Bible the place in church life taught in *Die Verbum*, the Constitution on Divine Revelation: open access to all, soul of theology, food for life.

CR demonstrates in reality the Council's teaching on the laity, the dignity of all the baptized, their calling to mission, their role in evangelization.

From start of CCR, informed Catholics knew that this experience of the Spirit was supported by the teaching of the Council; It was quickly encouraged by the Popes (1975);

even if the Renewal, spiritual gifts, etc were not immediately appreciated by the priests and the bishops (the situation has changed a lot since the period 1970 - 1995).

THE NEW AND THE OLD

The Holy Spirit always creates newness with great diversity.

Pope Francis is always speaking about the **newness** of the Holy Spirit, the **creativity** of the Spirit, the **rich diversity** created by the Spirit.

“It is he who brings forth a unity which is never uniformity but a multifaceted and inviting harmony. “ (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 117).

NEW & RE-NEW

The work of the Holy Spirit in Renewal includes:

1. re-newal of the heritage coming down from the past:

- New life for liturgy, sacraments, catechesis
- Purification of the heritage:
 - * making primary primary
 - * restoring primacy of the Word of God

2. The Holy Spirit creates new forms of life,
mission, ministry:

Ecumenical sharing and ministry

Singing in the Spirit

New patterns of community

New patterns of evangelization

Messianic Jewish movement

NEWNESS ALSO OUTSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- “Reaping what the Spirit has sown in them, which is also meant to be a gift for us.” (Francis, EG, 246).
- Renewal in the Protestant Churches
 - Alpha course
- New forms of free church
 - Pioneering ministries and initiatives
- Messianic Jewish Movement

NEWNESS IS NEWNESS OF RESURRECTION

The newness of the Spirit flows from the death of Jesus on the Cross.

For newness that comes from God, there has to be the foundational death to sin and to all self-centredness and independence.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5: 17).

LOYALTIES and IDENTITIES

Because CR is a movement of the Holy Spirit it challenges things in the Church that the Holy Spirit does not like! Today Pope Francis is saying this very clearly.

But in the period since the Reformation, Catholics had been taught to value Catholic loyalty above all else. This loyalty was seen as part of a true Catholic identity.

The Ecumenical Dilemma

After three or four centuries of being taught that being a good Catholic means having nothing to do with Protestants, and that the only way to unity was for the others to submit to Rome, the Catholic Church makes a commitment to work for Christian unity, and recognizes that the Holy Spirit is at work in the other Christian churches.

This presents a big dilemma!

THE DILEMMA

What does Renewal of the Church mean for our ideas of Catholic loyalty and Catholic identity?

Some Catholics are confused and frustrated because they are trying to be ecumenical (as encouraged by St John Paul II) but are trying to do so with a pre-Vatican Two idea of Catholic loyalty and Catholic identity.

RENEWAL

Our ideas about loyalty and identity need renewal.

Our no 1 loyalty is to the Lord.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matt. 22: 37).

Our loyalty is to the Lord,

- We love the Church because of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- What we love in the Church is the work of the Holy Spirit, all that comes to us from Jesus.
- We receive and honour the ordained ministry because we believe it is a gift of the Lord. So we honour and we pray - that they will be faithful servants of the Lord.