

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Revealed by My Heavenly Father Sts. Peter and Paul, apostles Friday, June 29, 2018
8:15 AM Acts 3:1-10; **Gal 1:11-20**; **Mt 16:13-19** (We have to keep in mind that the truth that sets us free comes from the Father. The real soul and the real teacher of the Church is the Holy Spirit.)

“For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.”

In today’s readings we have two references to **flesh and blood; that means basically ordinary people, ordinary thinking, ordinary knowledge**. St. Paul says, “I did not consult flesh and blood.” That was referring of course to the apostles in Jerusalem, the people called to lead the Church. But Paul was contrasting flesh and blood people with this revelation, this contact, this disclosing, he had from God himself. Likewise Jesus is saying to Peter that you did not get this belief, this conviction, this insight, from any normal human source. This is not you. It’s not from your friends. It’s not from people. **It’s from the Father.**

So we have to keep in mind in the Opening Prayer of today’s Mass it talks about how **God has led us to right religion**. Now there is nothing more common or human than seeking of God. We are all created to seek something, and we always seek what is good. The greatest good, the foundation of all goodness, is God. So **it’s very natural to seek God. But we can become misguided, and many, most of us, all of us, are misguided at some point**. The whole Old Testament is about people following lesser gods or false gods, which St. Thomas Aquinas enumerates as **money, power, pleasure, or fame**. And that pretty well sums it up. Those are the false goods, the false gods, **the false goals that people can seek**. And when they do, they go astray. Their lives get off track. They wander. They get lost.

But there’s another problem. People can be utterly sincere and not seek power or money or pleasure or fame and still get off track due to the **inherent fallibility of human beings. We have**

to keep in mind that the truth that sets us free comes from the Father. The real soul and the real teacher of the Church is the Holy Spirit.

Now, in a sense, every bishop is called on to be like Peter in the Church to guide people to the truth. Unfortunately we become priests and bishops in a sort of permanent way; we have a permanent office, but yielding to the Spirit is not a permanent state, and we all have to be aware of this. We all have to be discerning. **We all together have to discern the Spirit, who leads us to the Father and to the revelation of the truth.** We all have a role in this. If the laity doesn't play it's proper role in discerning the Spirit, then the leadership of the Church will be, in a way, almost released from accountability and permitted more or less to do whatever they think is right, which in itself is no more or less as fallible, that means open to deception, as anyone else. That's why we all have to be seeking together the truth that Jesus refers to here as "revealed to you by my heavenly Father."