

Divine Will Alone Elevates the Soul to God's Likeness

Gospel Reading for February 3, 2017

With Divine Will Truths

Saint Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard about Jesus, for his fame had become widespread, and people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; That is why mighty powers are at work in him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah"; still others, "He is a prophet like any of the prophets." But when Herod learned of it, he said, "It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up." Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harbored a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. She had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. Herodias's own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you wish and I will grant it to you." He even swore (many things) to her, "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back to the king's presence and made her request, "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her.

So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

IV. The Spirit of Christ in the Fullness of Time (CCC)

John, precursor, prophet, and baptist

717 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John."⁸⁹ John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb"⁹⁰ by Christ himself, whom the

*Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.*⁹¹

718 John is "Elijah [who] must come."⁹² The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord."⁹³

719 John the Baptist is "more than a prophet."⁹⁴ In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah.⁹⁵ He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming.⁹⁶ As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light."⁹⁷ In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels.⁹⁸ "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. . . . Behold, the Lamb of God."⁹⁹

720 Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.¹⁰⁰

From the Book of Heaven

V24 - June 20, 1928 - "...My Will alone elevates the soul to the Likeness of her Creator; what is done in It places her in the order of the Divine works."

V24 - Aug. 23, 1928 - "...The truths about My Fiat are the New Gospel of the Kingdom of My Divine Will, in which they will find the norms, the Sun, the teachings on how to ennoble themselves, elevate themselves to their origin, and take the state given to them by God at the beginning of Creation. They will find the Gospel that, taking them by the hand, will lead them into true happiness, into constant peace. The only law will be My Will that, with Its brush of love, dipped in the vivid colors of Its light, will give back to man the Likeness of his Creator."

V24 - Sept. 28, 1928 - "In fact, My Will nourishes the soul with light, and she, feeding on light, acquires the gift and the natural property of forming light. And, oh! how delightful it is for Us to see that the creature, within the source of Our Light, forms her own, to give it to Us and say: 'Adorable Majesty, Eternal Light You are, and light You give me; and I bring You my little light as the greatest homage,

the most intense love, that, squeezing the sponge of my little being soaked with Your Light, forms my light for You, to give it to You.'

"So, many beautiful scenes of light form between the soul and God, with the harmony of all the colors that the light possesses. What does light not possess? It possesses colors, sweetnesses, fragrances, flavors of all kinds; so, the scenes alternate—one more beautiful than the other. Here is, then, how the living in My Divine Fiat calls back within itself the beginning of Creation, and repeats for Us the joys and the feasts of the beginning of It: the creature enters Our order—into Our Acts, and gives Us joys and happinesses; and We keep impressing Our Likeness upon her forehead."

FIAT!