

Sexagesima Sunday

Hearing God's Word

“The seed is the word of God” (Luke, 8:11)

Sometimes Our Lord did not explain His parables (little stories to illustrate a lesson) but left it to the ingenuity of His hearers to deduce the lesson He intended. But for today's parable He Himself gives the explanation. The seed sown by the farmer is the word of God, and it produces different effects in accordance with the different dispositions which it encounters in the hearts of those who hear it.

The Catholic Church has been authorised to proclaim the word of God to all nations--in other words to teach all men the revelation of Jesus Christ and the truths of salvation. The Church exercises this mission in many ways. Basically it is done through the ministry of preaching, performed by the bishops, the successors of the apostles. One of the most effective organisations for the spread of the word of God in the Church is the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Today with the great number of books and pamphlets on religious topics available, Catholics have no excuse for not learning thoroughly the teachings of their faith. There are many publications issued under the authority of the bishops, and every Catholic who can read should make use of them 'to acquire a deeper knowledge of his holy religion. Furthermore, there are study groups and lectures available to all, which will provide a deeper knowledge of the faith.

It is an unfortunate fact that many Catholics are satisfied to go through life with the limited knowledge of their religion which they acquired as children. They never seem to realise that the Catechism gives only a summary knowledge of the faith, and that Catholics are supposed to acquire a more complete understanding of the Church's teachings in proportion to the increase of their knowledge of other topics. It is indeed tragic when we meet a Catholic whose knowledge in some worldly branch of science, such as medicine or law or business, is at a university level, while his knowledge of the Catholic faith is not above the level of the grammar school. Such a person is in great need of a deeper knowledge of the Catholic religion. No one can claim that he is too busy to learn more about the Church's teachings. The more thoroughly we understand Catholic doctrine the more clearly we shall perceive its logic and beauty and the more ardently we shall be inspired to practice its teachings in our lives.

Practical Application

Resolve to devote some regular period every week to the study of Catholic doctrine. If you spent even fifteen minutes a day in reading good instructive books, you would be a truly learned Catholic in a short time.