

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Memorial of St. Augustine of Canterbury

Bishop John O. Barres

St. Agnes Cathedral

May 27, 2020

We are moving toward the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost this coming weekend and the Church is already preparing us for the celebration through the readings at Mass and the readings in the Liturgy of the Hours.

I have always appreciated section 688 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which provides a helpful summary statement of how the Holy Spirit works in the Church, the World and in Salvation History.

I recommend that you find this section to study and pray as a way of preparing for the great Solemnity of the Pentecost this weekend.

It reads: “The Church, a communion living in the faith of the apostles which she transmits, is the place where we know the Holy Spirit:

--in the Scriptures he inspired;

--in the Tradition, to which the Church Fathers are always timely witnesses;

--in the Church’s Magisterium, which he assists;

--in the sacramental liturgy, through its words and symbols, in which the Holy Spirit puts us into communion with Christ;

--in prayer, wherein he intercedes for us;

--in the charisms and ministries by which the Church is built up;

--in the signs of apostolic and missionary life;

--in the witness of saints through whom he manifests his holiness and continues the work of salvation.

In every dimension of the Holy Spirit's work in the Church – whether it is in the Scriptures, Tradition, the Church's Magisterium, the sacramental liturgy, in prayer, in the charisms and ministries of the Church, in the signs of apostolic and missionary life, and in the witness of saints in history such as Saint Augustine of Canterbury whose memorial we celebrate today – we see that the Holy Spirit leads us to the truth and helps us to live the Truth.

We hear in the Gospel of John, Chapter 17:

“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

May the Holy Spirit illumine our minds, hearts, imaginations and souls in the Truth, the Truth that leads us to true Freedom.