

Sunday Message from Fr William for Second Sunday of Lent Ordinary Time 2024

*The 'Other World' continued from 18.02.24*

You can see where this is going. If human beings grow in freedom in this world the more the Spirit is 'breathed into' us this has big implications for our freedom in the 'other world' when the Spirit will pour himself into us in a new and final outpouring, a new spiritualisation, and the completion of our creation (see 19.11.2023), the 'new spiritualisation of the body' spoken of by Karol Wojtyła (see 09.07.2023). With this new and final infusion of the Spirit in the 'other world' we will attain a correspondingly new and higher level of freedom. This is the glorious freedom of the children of God that Paul speaks of in his letter to the Romans (*Romans 8.21*).

But before refocussing on the 'other world', and our experience in the 'other world', in particular of Freedom and Love, there's still work to be done to get some insight into how the Spirit gives himself to us, pours himself into us in this world.

Take another look at the analogy of parent and child and the child's growth in freedom (18.02.2024). As the parent passes on to her child her knowledge and skill and wisdom and self-discipline she is at the same time empowering him, opening up for him new horizons, endowing him with new options for deliberation and new opportunities for action. She is contributing to his ongoing growth in freedom. Parents, 'you are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far'. (*Khalil Gibran – On Children*).

Freedom is one of the great gifts that a parent can give her child. And I don't mean letting him do what he wants from the outset. This would most likely lead to bad choices and ever diminishing freedom. She gives him freedom by her teaching, upskilling, training, gentle discipline, and all within the important context of love.

Use this analogy to help understand our growth in this new kind of freedom that comes about by a process of spiritualisation. In this process of spiritualisation, it is the Son, Jesus Christ, who is our 'parent'. He is our teacher, but a teacher from the 'other world'. His words to us are not just instruction; they are spirit, and they are life. He shares with us his wisdom, a wisdom that is not of this world, but of the 'other world'. He trains us in love, but the new kind of love, new at least to this world, with which he loves us. And the love with which he loves us is the Spirit, who is Love, the love of the 'other world'. It is he, the Son, who gives us the Spirit, because it is his Spirit.

All this contributes to our ongoing spiritualisation. In all this the Son is our 'parent', parenting us throughout our days in this world. In all this he is our creator, creating us throughout our days. And as we each become increasingly ourselves, in the ongoing actualisation of our self, the ongoing realisation of our personal subjectivity, so we increasingly attain to this new kind of freedom, the Freedom that transcends this world. 'If the Son makes you free, you will be free *indeed* (ὄντως).' (*John 8:36*)

*to be continued...*



25 February 2024