

## Sunday Message from Fr William for Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024

*The 'Other World' continued from 07.07.24*

Way back in October 2023 I listed six great questions to get onto in this joint adventure to penetrate the mysteries of the 'other world' (*Sunday message 8 Oct 2023*):

- What happens to our bodily senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste, since these have really evolved as mechanisms to interact with this world?
- What happens to our maleness and femaleness, since Jesus makes it clear that marriage is only for this world? (*Luke 20:35*)
- Will our bodies be the same as they are in this world, or will they be changed?
- Will we in fact be bodies at all, or disembodied spirits?
- How will we apprehend/perceive/experience the vast reality of the 'other world' that lies beyond the powers of our bodily senses?
- And how will we participate as human beings in those infinite dynamics of Freedom and Love that are the twin dynamics of 'other world'?

At least I've had time to reflect with you on the first two of these questions. The new spiritualisation of the body that Karol Wojtyła writes of will be 'the source of its power and imperishability' in the 'other world'. (*Theology of the Body 72 – 10.02.82*). And in this new spiritualisation of the body we will experience in the 'other world' the 'perfect sensitivity of the senses', and their 'perfect harmonization' with all that we are and all that we experience in the 'other world'. (*see Sunday Message 26 November 2023*). Much in the 'other world' will remain beyond the powers of our bodily senses even with this new spiritualisation of the body: The Father, and the angels. But the sacred humanity of the Son, and the humanity of each other, these we will encounter in a new way with this new and perfect sensitivity of the senses. To me this is truly wonderful that our bodily senses, evolved as mechanisms to interact with this world, find their ultimate place and purpose in the 'other world'. Let me leave unanswered for now whether a sensory experience of the Spirit is an experience of the 'other world'.

The last 10 Sunday messages, beginning 5<sup>th</sup> May, have been an extended reflection on the role of human maleness and femaleness in this world and in the 'other world'. I offer it as an answer to that second question of what happens to our sexuality in the 'other world'. Far from our maleness and femaleness being cast off or jettisoned, they too attain their ultimate place, their ultimate purpose, and their ultimate power in the 'other world'. They are a sign written into the human body that speaks of self-giving love, the Creator's personal signature, the deep reflection of his own image and likeness. Brought to perfection in the 'other world' by the new spiritualisation of the body, we live our maleness and femaleness for ever in the limitless ways of self-giving love that constitute the life of the 'other world'.

I wish we had time to spend on question 3. For a short answer to question 4 see previous Sunday Message and the reference to Manichaeism. Before signing off for the final time we must dedicate one Sunday message to question 5 and what we mean by the 'beatific vision'. Question 6 is the big one, and although I've dedicated many Sunday messages to this big question since we began 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023, I'm going to have to leave a return to this question hanging...*to be continued...*

 14 July 2024