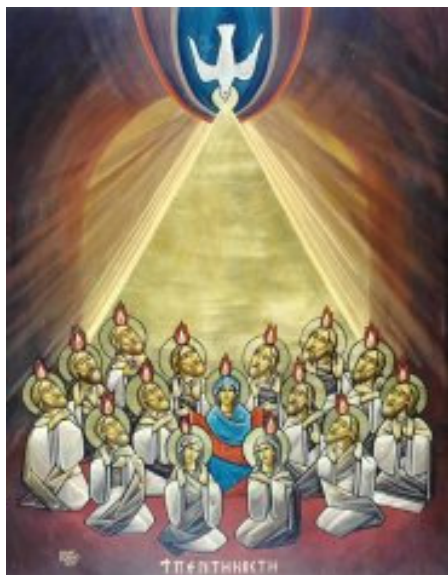


Reading Scripture with the Church ~ The Holy Spirit



Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church". According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture. (CCC 113)

Reading scripture with the Church is more than just an intellectual exercise, it consists of several aspects that were used by the Fathers of our faith to receive and meditate upon God's organic revelation to us through scripture, tradition and the living magisterium.

Reading Scripture as the work of the Holy Spirit.

"the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:25-26

The same Holy Spirit that guided the human hands that authored God's work also animates the hearts of the faithful who read His word, and gives the to the Church the authority to interpret and illuminate God's word to the faithful (DV 10,11). "The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual understanding of the Word of God to those who read or hear it, according to the dispositions of their hearts: (CCC 1101)

When reading scripture we should ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and trust in the commentary and interpretation offered by the Church's living tradition. (cf CCC 109-113, 137)

Reading Scripture with Tradition

*"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter."
- 2 Thess 2:15*

God's word is revealed completely in Jesus Christ who is the "Word made Flesh" (John 1:14, cf DV 2). This revelation of God's word and will for us is not only contained in scripture. "There are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God" (DV 10) in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches." (CCC 97)

When reading scripture we should seek to see the connections and unity of faith. (cf CCC 113-114, 134 & 1602)

