

November 15, 2016 RCIA Presentation St. Mary of the Assumption

The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ (Presentation by Brett Smith)

Chapter 10 - *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults*

- Going to focus on a couple of themes from chapter 10
 - 1) the Church as the New Covenant People of God
 - 2) the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ
- The Church is the New Covenant People of God
 - There was always a people of God, more organized as time has gone on
 - The righteous line of Seth - Genesis 5 – sacrifice even before Seth
 - The Covenant with Noah
 - The Covenant with Abraham – circumcision – already God’s people a visible entity
 - The Old or Mosaic Covenant
 - Ten Commandments
 - Tabernacle w/ sacrifices
 - God enthroned above the cherubim
 - getting more intimate
 - from the Exodus on a societas– an organization with offices, rules, administration, etc.
 - this was necessary to carry out the Tabernacle worship God prescribed
 - Further organized under David and Solomon Temple worship, music added (the Psalms)
 - The New Covenant
 - predicted by the prophets ex: Jeremiah 31:33-34
 - fulfills the Old
 - reconstitutes the people of God with
 - Christ as the head,
 - and His sacrifice as the only one
 - Hebrews 7:23-28; 9:11-15; 10:11-25 (also 4:14-16)
 - We participate in it through baptism and the Eucharist
 - maximal intimacy
 - still have a sacrifice, still must be a societas to ensure real thing
 - that societas is the RCC (although EO sacraments also valid)
 - no Protestant Church even believes mass is a true sacrifice
 - Only here do we have “confidence to enter the sanctuary” - refer to “only” part of handout

- The Church is the Mystical body of Christ:
 - He works through the church, and we are organically joined to Him as a vine to the branches (John 6: 50s, 15: beg.)
 - Paul says that we all constitute the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13; 27-28)
 - visible aspect: a *societas*
 - invisible aspect: the Holy Spirit is the principle of life and that which effects every good work
 - Augustine: the HS is to the Church as the soul is to the body
- More depth: the Church as *societas*
 - Matthew 16 and 18 (use the handout), with Isaiah 22:15-23
- Questions?