



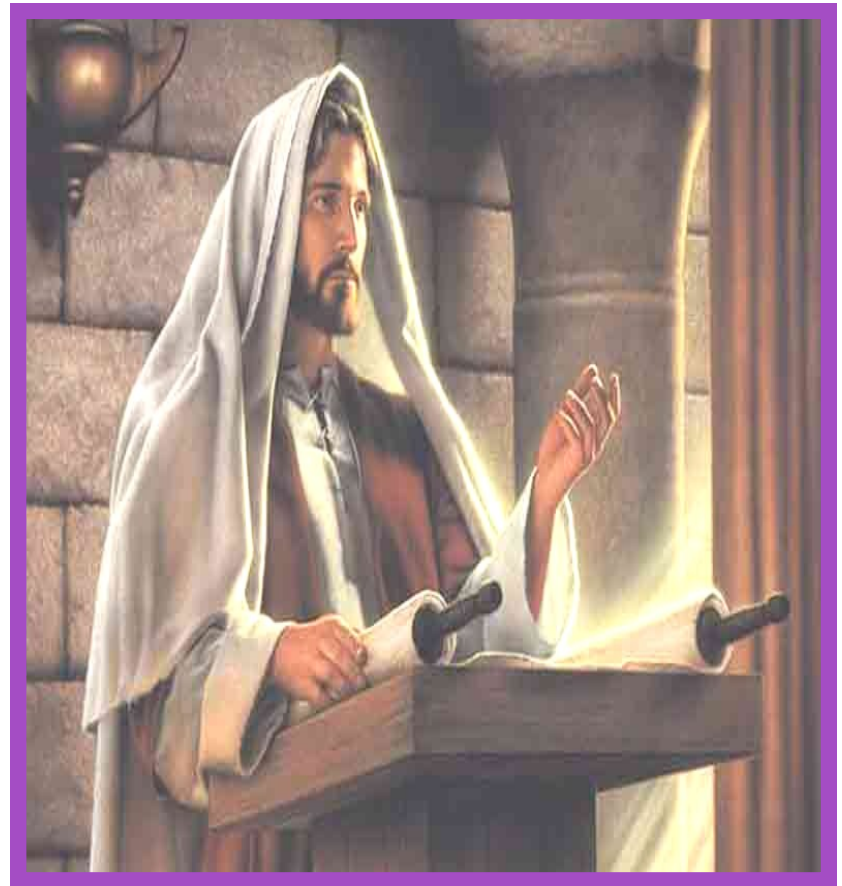
Him through Whom He could confess God; nor can he ever attain to the remedy of forgiveness who no longer has an Advocate (Paraclete) to intercede for him...

Let us be encouraged by these and innumerable other testimonies, in which the authority of the divine eloquence shines forth... For it is the Spirit of Truth Himself which causes the house of His glory to shine with the

splendor of His own light. In this temple He wills that there shall be nothing unworthy nor wanting in fervor. It is by His teaching and assistance that the purification of fasting and almsgiving has been imposed on us... Fasting cleanses any stain of any heedless neglect and the devotion of your piety amends it... Amen.



**SERMON ON
THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
157 - 2**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

***PENTECOST SUNDAY
(WHITSUNTIDE)***

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

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Commentary on the Gospel of John 14: 23-31

by: Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor

...We have no uncertainty as to the reverence due to this day, made sacred by the Holy Spirit in the surpassing miracle of the gift of Himself. This is the tenth day that has shone upon us from that on which the Lord *mounted above the heaven of heavens* (Ps. lxxvii. 34), to sit at the right hand of God the Father, and the fiftieth from His Resurrection in Whom the day begins...

As the history of the Apostles bears witness, *when the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place: and suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting...* (Acts ii. 1-4), how swift the word of wisdom and how quickly when the Lord is our instructor do we learn what He teaches! There was no need of an interpreter to understand for the Spirit of Truth, breathing where it willed, the particular tongues of every nation are shared together in the mouth of the Church. From that day forth the trumpet of the preaching of the Gospel has sounded. The rain of spiritual graces, the streams of blessings, have watered every desert, and the whole parched world; for the *Spirit of God moved over the waters* (Gen. i. 2) to renew the face of the earth... to burn away all sin.

...The Invisible Nature of the Holy Spirit, which belonged also to the Father and to the Son, revealed the nature of His office and of His work, in the manner He willed, but the substance of His divine Being was contained within

His divinity. As the Father and the Son so likewise the Holy Ghost is inaccessible to human sight. For in the Divine Trinity there is no dissimilarity, no inequality and all that can be conceived of Its substance can be separated neither from Its power, glory, or Its eternity. Though separate Persons, there is no other Godhead and no other divine nature...

When the Lord on the day before His passion promised His Disciples the Holy Ghost would come, it is not therefore that some things belong to the Father, some to the Son and some to the Holy Ghost. Instead, all that the Father has the Son has and the Holy Ghost has also; nor has the Trinity ever been wanting in this communion, for in the Trinity to have all things is the same as to exist for ever...

Let no one dare to affirm what God is not, for it is more to be pardoned that we say nothing worthy of His sublime nature, than that we say what is contrary to it. Whatever pious hearts may understand of the eternal and unchangeable glory of the Father, let them understand the same of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, without distinction and without separation. For this reason we confess that the Blessed Trinity is one God...

Those who desire a certain division between the Father and the Son, and that the Holy Spirit is of a lower nature, are falling into blasphemy which shall be forgiven neither in this world nor in the judgment to come, according to the words of the Lord: *He that shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come* (Mt. xii. 32). They have cut themselves off from