

## **BSP #7 OVERHEAD NOTES**

1. CCC 819 – Many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church... Christ's Spirit uses these Churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation, whose power derives from the fullness of grace and truth that Christ has entrusted to the Catholic Church. All these blessings come from Christ and lead to him...
2. CCC 692 – When he proclaims and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus calls him the "Paraclete," literally, "he who is called to one's side," *ad-vocatus*. "Paraclete" is commonly translated by "consoler," and Jesus is the first consoler. The Lord also called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth."
3. JPII, "Letter to Families" #13 – Christ – the "vine" from which the "branches" draw nourishment – is needed so that [the family] will not be exposed to the threat of a kind of cultural uprooting which can come both from within and from without. Indeed, although there is on the one hand the "civilization of love", there continues to exist on the other hand the possibility of a destructive "anti-civilization", as so many present trends and situations confirm.
4. Vatican II, Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, n.24 – There is a certain parallel between the union existing among the divine persons and the union of the sons of God in truth and love. It follows then that... man can fully discover his true self only in a sincere giving of himself.

### **BSP #7 Questions for Group Sharing**

Q1. As stated in the Introduction of this study, John's gospel has multiple layers and often statements have more than one meaning. What does Jesus mean when He says "I go to prepare a place for you" in John 14:2? When He states "I will come again and take you to myself" is He speaking only of the end of time? What else might He mean?

Q2. What "greater works" in verse John 14:12 is Jesus referring to that the Apostles will perform? (Read Mt. 28:18-20)

Q3. Jesus makes it clear, in John 15:2, that if the vine's branches do not bear fruit that the 'vinedresser' (God the Father) will take them away. Who are the branches? What does it mean that these branches will be taken away? He also states that every branch that does bear fruit will be pruned by God. Why are those that are bearing good fruit pruned? In what ways does God 'prune' us?

Q4. Do you have friends or relatives that seem to be constantly worrying about things or who seemingly live their lives in fear? They may fear that their teenagers will use drugs or fear that their spouse may leave them; fear about their health or not making enough money. Do you feel that they would benefit from the peace that Jesus gives? How can you help them?

## **Answers for BSP#7 Group Sharing Questions**

Q1. The place that Jesus is going to prepare is the Father's house, which is the Church. When Jesus leaves his disciples, he is not merely going to Heaven. He is sending Heaven to earth in the person of Holy Spirit and in his Real Presence in the Eucharist where he will continue to "tabernacle" with us after his Ascension. His preparation is, therefore, the establishment of the Church and the sacramental economy of salvation.

Jesus "takes us to himself" by means of his salvific grace, which allows us to participate in His divine nature and to be the children of God. In particular, He "takes us to himself" through the Eucharist - His Body, enabling us to be in communion with Him.

Q2. To evangelize, to make disciples of all nations, and to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Mt. 28:18-20)

Q3. We are the branches. Our existence and everything that we do is dependent on the vine – Jesus (John 15:1). "Taken away" means being thrown away into fire, i.e. hell. Those that are bearing good fruit are growing well because they open their hearts to God's truth. They are "pruned" in the sense that they are enlightened by the truth and made anew by the sacraments; they continue to grow stronger. God "prunes" us in many ways: through the Church's teaching, through the sacraments, through personal encounters with God in our life, through our ups and downs, etc.