

## **PUBLIC REVELATION vs PRIVATE REVELATION**

### **KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES**

Last week we affirmed that “God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he established his Covenant for ever.

The Son is his Father’s definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after him.” (CCC #73).

His apostles gave their life as witnesses to the Truth that Jesus had revealed.

With the death of St. John the apostle, PUBLIC REVELATION is considered closed.

WHAT ABOUT “PRIVATE REVELATIONS”?

WHAT ARE THEY?

This is a common objection directed to Catholics by other Christian Denominations.

“Private revelations” or “messages” from Heaven are at times received by individuals through interior locutions (words heard in one’s heart), or in audible form or visions supposedly from our Lord Jesus, his Blessed Mother or the Saints.

These “revelations” do not add anything new to what has already been revealed in the Gospels by Jesus and the apostles. When authentic, they rather expand and clarify as well as confirm the “Public Revelation”.

Our Catholic Catechism (CCC) explains in paragraph 67:

“Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith.

It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history.

Guided by the magisterium of the Church, the “sensus fidelium” knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his Saints to the Church.

Christian faith cannot accept “revelations” that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such “revelations”. (CCC #67)

Though as Catholics, you are not obliged to believe or accept private revelations or messages, nevertheless, in the case of those recognized by the Church, you may find them very helpful to grow closer to the Lord and improve your personal prayer life.

Examples of “HELPFUL” Church recognized private revelations include the following:

St. Faustina diary “DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL “ - Elizabeth Kindelmann spiritual diary “THE FLAME OF LOVE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY” - “THE VISIONS OF THERESE NEUMANN”. - St.Margaret Mary Alacoque “THE PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART”. - Anne Catharine Emmerich’s “LIFE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY” and “THE DOLOROUS PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST” - “HE AND I” by Gabrielle Bossis - “THE WAY OF DIVINE LOVE” by Servant of God Sr.Josefa Menendez, - and thousandths of others

NEXT WEEK: “SACRED SCRIPTURE and TRADITION”