

This was my first time reading *Lumen Fidei* and it was very enlightening for me. Some of the major points of Pope Francis' encyclical was that Jesus is the true light of the world. His light is so strong that it even transcends the darkness of death itself. That true faith is born not from us but from God. It is like a light that shines when we meet the true living God. When we get to know God and learn to accept His love we open our eyes towards the promise He has made to His people. The example Pope Francis uses is Abraham. He explains how Abraham as he walks with God his eyes are open and then God reveals to him a promise. This shows us that our faith is not something that is caused because of the past but instead is to look for the promise that was made for us. Pope Francis called this “*memoria futuri*” which means memory of the future.

Another point that stood out to me is how Pope Francis shows how the relation of a fatherly figure and human dignity is represented through God and His people. We trust God who created us and we trust in Him because He has called us by name. For Israel their faith was made stronger after God rescued them from Egypt. The people of Israel did not have an abstract faith in fact it was so true and concrete that they passed down this faith for generations. This faith is a sign of respect and gratitude towards a fatherly figure which is God.

However, not all was perfect for Israel. The town was divided because of idolatry, which is the opposite of the true faith. The reason idolatry was so popular was because it substituted the invisible God by something visible. But this only divided the people of God and guided them towards earthly desires. This made me reflect on today's society. How much idolatry are we doing especially us young adults. Most of us are focused on professional success, reputation, consumers, etc. which can be used as substitution for the true God.

Pope Francis also explains how Jesus shows us the true divine fidelity towards God which was the cross. This cross shows us how strong His love was. His love was so strong that not even in the face of death did it shy away. He explains that because of His resurrection our faith is made true. Once we believe and accept this then we see the world in the eyes of God. This means that we recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. And it is our duty to do as our father does. That means that for my apostolate I should teach what my father teaches, do as my father does, and show other young adults the father that He is.

Another one of my favorite points is about how faith and truth go hand in hand. He explains that one without the other can be corrupted. For example if you only have truth but no faith then it becomes a subjective conviction. Meanwhile faith without truth becomes more like a feeling that is not able to sustain life. He also explains that there is only one body, spirit, and faith. Trying to choose or ignore one of these elements is to hurt the communion and the truth.

This has made me reflect what is the light that I am transmitting. If it is not the light of Christ it is my duty to go back to that foundation and remember the core values that Jesus taught. Remember the promise that God has made to His people and let that guide me. My work in SEPI with young adults is very important and I have to be able to be the light for them and not be afraid of the darkness.