

# The Gift of Understanding

“Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God” (Mk 5:8)

# Quick Review

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Virtue</b>
Fear of the Lord	Concupiscible appetite	Temperance
Fortitude	Irascible appetite	Fortitude
Piety	Will	Justice
Counsel	Intellect	Prudence
Knowledge	Intellect	Faith
Understanding	Intellect	Faith
Wisdom	Intellect	Love

# The Light of the Gift of Understanding

- As the natural light of reason makes us understand sensible things, the light of the gift of understanding serves to penetrate supernatural truths and to reveal their intimate depths.

# The Gift of Intuition

- The gift of penetration, the gift of intuition, is the gift of understanding. By means of it we go deep into the meaning of supernatural truths, of the Christian mysteries, of the dogmas of our faith. The more developed this gift is in our soul, the more profound is our vision, the more penetrating our intuition.
- By the gift of understanding, the Holy Spirit moves us so that we can penetrate the depths of all supernatural truths and thus attain our eternal salvation.

# A Negative Vision

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are founded on Faith, and Faith is always obscure. In spite of the fact that the gift of understanding gives us a negative vision, we can penetrate deeply and efficaciously into supernatural truths. We are enabled to distinguish the true from the false in the supernatural order, even more, to comprehend that divine things are above human things.

- The gift of understanding makes us penetrate forms and symbols in such a way that we know that the thing symbolized or signified is very superior to the symbol or the sign. The symbol is nothing more than a rock on which we place our foot for support in order to spring forward into the infinite. Thus the gift of understanding penetrates all the wealth of supernatural truths and gives us a vivid, intimate knowledge of divine things.

# The Works of Love

- The gift of understanding, while enabling us to penetrate the meaning of the truths of faith, must also lead to an understanding of matters related to action, to the works of love and charity required for gaining eternal life.

# Light to Deepen into the Mysteries of Faith

- The gift of understanding gives us light to deepen into the mystery of the Eucharist, difficult passages of the Scriptures, the other Sacraments, the designs of Divine Providence, the perfections of God, and to better know ourselves.



# Lord, that I May See!

- As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man called out to him. The apostles did not wish the Lord to be bothered by this suppliant, but the more they tried to keep him away, the more the blind man cried out. Jesus went up to him and said: “What would you have me do for you?” And the answer came: “Rabboni, that I may see!” (Mk 10:51).
- In these words, the blind man expressed his greatest desire, the pressing need of his soul. Is it not true that this is one of the great necessities of our heart and that it should be one of our great desires? So sad and painful is blindness—so rich and beautiful is light! Every day let us say to the Lord, as did Bartimeus, the blind man of the Gospel: Lord, that I may see!

# A Simple Faith

- To cultivate in the soul the gift of understanding, a living, simple faith is necessary, one which humbly implores of God the light to understand the revealed truths better. Cultivation of the gift of understanding also requires meditation on these mysteries as a preparation for a more vital grasp of the mysteries of Faith.