

TOR Sisters Retreat Day 1 Mass (pre-retreat) May 30, 2015

Sirach...

- Wisdom - begin seeking her at a young age, never stop
- at a young age before the temple (liturgical prayer)
- delight in wisdom
- must also live it (keep to the path)
- "My soul was tormented in seeking her" - share in the Cross, longing, desire = prayer
- "My hand opened her gate and I came to know her secrets" - I am the Gate

Gospel

- the Gate is Christ, human and divine and this is the pathway to the Secret of Wisdom
- divinity clothes itself in weakness
- To answer the question of Jesus in the Gospel, authority is BOTH earthly and heavenly
- Furthermore we encounter Him in the messy mystery of the Church, both earthly and heavenly

Lumen Gentium #8 on the humanity/divinity of the Church

"Christ, the one Mediator, established and continually sustains here on earth His holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity, as an entity with visible delineation through which He communicated truth and grace to all. But, **the society structured with hierarchical organs and the Mystical Body of Christ, are not to be considered as two realities, nor are the visible assembly and the spiritual community, nor the earthly Church and the Church enriched with heavenly things; rather they form one complex reality which coalesces from a divine and a human element. For this reason, by no weak analogy, it is compared to the mystery of the incarnate Word.** As the assumed nature inseparably united to Him, serves the divine Word as a living organ of salvation, so, in a similar way, does the visible social

structure of the Church serve the Spirit of Christ, who vivifies it, in the building up of the body.”

But it’s also messy and complicated...

- **humility, self-sacrifice** ”the Church, although it needs human resources to carry out its mission, is not set up to seek earthly glory, but to proclaim, even by its own example, humility and self-sacrifice.
- **she takes in the anawim** ”Similarly, the Church encompasses with love all who are afflicted with human suffering and in the poor and afflicted sees the image of its poor and suffering Founder.”
- **sinner in need of renewal** ”the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal.”

To be able to see clearly, we must be honest

- reinforces that we must speak truth to receive truth; if we lie, we cannot hear the truth (as it says in the first reading, ”in cleanness (ie purity) I attained to her.”)