

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Third Sunday of Lent

Today we live in a marketplace of ideas. Ideas are not reality but thoughts about what may be possible. Pope Francis and Pope Benedict have warned us about our “ideological” times. “Ideological colonization” is what Pope Francis calls it. The Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican issued a document on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2, 2019 entitled, “MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM” *Toward a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education*. There are some in society who strongly insist on imposing certain ideologies that even go against scientific facts and common-sense truths. Theories are not truths based on scientific, factual evidence, but remain simply that, theories. (Evolution is simply a theory, not a proven scientific fact.)

Jesus is not an ideology but the Truth for us who believe in Him. The worst ideology that does a great disservice to the world is the denial of sin. We are hard-wired with a sense of good and bad, right and wrong. We have a conscience that disturbs us when we do wrong, when we sin. This gives us guilt, and this is a normal and healthy reaction of our inner most being, known as the soul. Jesus comes to overturn the false concepts, lies and deceptions that come from the evil one. If our heart is a marketplace for ideologies and idolatries, Jesus does us a great service in overturning the marketplace of our heart. Jesus forgives sin when we repent. “The truth will set you free” (John 8:32). What Jesus brings us is not for sale but is free! He paid the price for all of us on the Cross! Salvation is a gift!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasovich

