

in a way that has something to do with themselves. So, if we are going to be wise, we must be humble enough to see what the world does revolve around: God.

We can understand that Solomon and others from the Bible had wisdom, and I think we can see the Lord Jesus' wisdom. When it comes to wisdom, what do we think of the Church? Do we think that the Church has wisdom? That is not an easy question. In a sense, there are many voices in our world that question the Church's wisdom on many things. It is one thing to be inquisitive and wonder, "Why does the Church teach this?" or "Why do we do such-and-such when we are at Mass?" It is another thing to publicly call for the Church to change her stance or to belittle the Church's teachings, to outright believe that the Church is wrong or out-of-touch.

Not only does the Church possess wisdom, but sometimes we come to rely on the beauty and strength of its wisdom. So often, when a family suffers the loss of one of its own, the prayers that the Church offers can be a source of consolation and strength and healing. Many times, people will notice how touching and beautiful those prayers are. Well, those prayers were not just written on a moment's notice: they are the expression of the Church's faith and the accumulation of wisdom over the centuries. The Church has a wisdom which allows it to guide people along the right path and bring comfort and healing.

The Church does have wisdom, but we must recognize it. We must have the wisdom that Solomon possessed to recognize it, and the humility of Solomon as well. In other words, we must trust the Church and her wisdom. That applies to those stances and doctrines that we like and understand, and also the ones that we do not understand. We have to trust in the Church and in the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus asks His disciples if they understand what He is teaching them, and they respond that they do understand. But it was not always that way.

We remember that when the Lord Jesus taught the crowds that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood, many walked away. However, when the Lord asked Peter what he wanted to do, St. Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life." He did not say, "No, I understand what you're saying. No problem." Perhaps St. Peter was confused about the Lord's teachings about His Body and Blood; he would not have been the only one. However, St. Peter continued to follow the Lord Jesus. He did not do this because he perfectly understood what the Lord Jesus was saying, but because St. Peter trusted Him. Sometimes it is that trust that gets us through difficult times.

Ultimately, we must trust that the Lord has a wisdom that goes well beyond any wisdom that we might possess. We must trust that the Church, carrying on that wisdom that the Lord

Jesus taught, is wise as well. We must understand that the Church is infallible in matters of faith and morals. Now, that does not mean that no one in the Church ever makes mistakes. There is no guarantee that members of the Church will always be wise. But the Church is something beyond just a few members. It just means that the infallible wisdom that we recognize in the Lord Jesus is still present today. The Church possesses a wisdom that we cannot explain, because it comes from the Lord Jesus.

I certainly hope that we can find wisdom in the Mother of God. We know that she possesses all virtues, and wisdom is certainly one of those virtues. We know that she also

possesses humility. We can look to her to find wisdom, because she will lead us to her Son. She found the pearl of great price. She possessed the wisdom to recognize what was most important in life. She dedicated her life to the Lord, and she spent her life in service to her Son. The

wisdom and the humility that she possessed she passed to her Son, but of course those virtues in her came from God.

She dedicated her life to helping others. She was like Solomon in that she did not choose those things in her life which would have only benefited herself. She did not ignore the needs of others but rather possessed compassion and charity. She accepted God's will for her, but she also accepted God's will for so many who were in need of her help and in need of the Lord's help. Her wisdom led her to understand what God was doing not just for herself but for us too.

As we approach the altar, we ask the Lord to give us the virtues that Solomon possessed. We may not acquire the great wisdom of King Solomon, but we can imitate his humility and his concern for others. We look to our Blessed Mother to help us. She will lead us to trust in her Son, and to trust in the Church that He has founded. We can acquire wisdom no matter how young we are. She will help us to find the pearl of great price just as she did.