

The modern polygraph, sometimes called a “lie detector” is a device that measures autonomic reactions on a person’s body.

People subjected to a polygraph, are strapped up to all sorts of devices that measure skin resistance, breathing rate, heart rate, and blood pressure. The person is then asked three types of questions: irrelevant questions - to establish a baseline, comparison questions - which are indirectly related to the subject at hand, and relevant questions - which are directly related to whatever is being investigated.

The idea, supposedly, is that the subconscious mind is attuned to the truth, and causes the body to react to lies - even lies the person may intentionally tell to hide something - in an adverse way.

Today’s Gospel comes once again from Jesus’ “Farewell Discourse” at the Last Supper from John’s Gospel.

In one sense, it foreshadows the next three weeks in the Church’s liturgical calendar. That is, the next three Sundays.

What is coming up next week is the Ascension of Our Lord to the right hand of God the Father.

Followed the next week by Pentecost Sunday - the descent of the Holy Spirit on Our Lady and the Apostles in the Upper Room.

And the next Sunday is Trinity Sunday.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks about leaving ... about the Holy Spirit ... and about His relationship to them ... as well as what our relationship to the three Persons of the Godhead should be.

A key line here is when Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “*the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept.*”

Which begs the question: Can we accept this?

The world cannot accept the deep abiding love that Jesus calls all His disciples to live. The world instead wants a shallow fickle love that expresses the lie that can be summed up in one word: “*Whatever.*”

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth empowers us to go forth and tell the good news ... evangelize about the love we know in Christ ... the Love of God the Father ... poured out on us in the Holy Spirit. These three relationships empower us to be true disciples and active Christians.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the openness ... the docility ... to accept the Spirit of truth - the Holy Spirit - and to receive in a new way today ... the deep abiding love of God ... as shown forth in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.