

Seminary studies can range from 6 to 9 years. Four years of Philosophy, four years of Theology, and a Pastoral or Internship year.

One of the key areas of Philosophy is known as Epistemology which is also called the Philosophy of Knowledge.

In recent years, namely, the most recent 100 or more years, this area of study has been under assault. There are now philosophies that teach that nothing can be known, or that everything is already known and anything in-between.

In the Gospel, Jesus says:

*Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.*

To know someone, in the Ancient world, often carried an idea of intimacy. That is, knowing more than a few facts about someone, or their vital statistics.

That sort of knowledge is limited to what could be called “head” knowledge. “Head” knowledge can accurately say that the chemicals that compose a the human body is around one dollar.

Yet in the realm of the other type of knowledge, that is “heart” knowledge, the human person is of infinite value. It is this type of knowledge that Jesus speaks of in relation to knowing himself and God the Father.

Knowledge of God the Father comes through our knowledge of Jesus Christ, His only Son, who is the Word of the Father, Incarnate. And perhaps the quickest way to this knowledge is through prayer and the Sacraments.

And in this knowledge, we may receive “*the love with which*” God the Father loves His only-begotten Son.

So, as we approach the Great Feast of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection, let us pray for an intimate knowledge of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to receive the graces necessary to grow in the depth of our knowledge of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.