

Showing and being Shown

My parents are over from the old country these days. So once again we have the opportunity to show our world, where we live, and how. I am always excited about doing that; mostly, I suppose, because I am rather excited about my life as it is, and find it meaningful and fulfilling.

Most of us, I think, are also curious, when we visit somebody we care about, to see how they live and what is in their world, and get at least the beginnings of a real experience of that which we have otherwise only heard about.

When it comes to God, we have nothing to show which He does not already know. He knows our world, just as He knows everything else. As such, we are not really disclosing anything new when we lay our life before Him, and ourselves, with all that we are and all that we have. When we confess our sin, we are not revealing the results of our examination of our sin and sinfulness. When we confess our sin, we are not presenting Him with what we have decided must be true about Him and His realities. To "confess" in Holy Scripture is to agree and submit to what He Himself says, about us and our life as well as about Himself and His.

Nevertheless, He does call and command us to present our world to Him, our lives and ourselves; not because there is anything He does not know already, but because He cares about us and wants to be part of our world and our life, so that we might share His life and His Kingdom with Him.

And for this reason, also, He shows His world to us, with His Word of salvation, which He has entrusted to His Church to speak, and preserved for her in Holy Scripture, of His love and what His love has done for us in the sufferings of the Son, and of the world He has made to be our heavenly heritage, in the fullness of His goodness and His glory.

First, though, He presents our own world to us, the truth about us and our lives, our shortcomings, and how our shortcomings are sin, evil and ungodliness and impurity; well, usually that comes first, although not always. But even as He shows us this, ultimately it is His own world He presents to us, His own goodness, how we fall short of His goodness, and what our life cannot but look like from His perspective, in light of His goodness, all in order for us to come to know that which we would not otherwise know, the world of His goodness, by which His world has been made to be ours, also, and shall be given to us in due time, with all things good and glorious.