

Church." Roman theologians declare that these articles stand together because of the Holy Spirit's union with the Church which is Christ's mystical body. This body was completed by the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and ever since then He dwells in the Church and is united to it by a union divinely constituted, indissoluble and eternal. By the Spirit's presence the Church is supernaturally endowed so as to be immutable in its knowledge, discernment and enunciation of the truth.

Before the Incarnation the Holy Spirit wrought in the souls of individual men, one by one, illuminating, converting, sanctifying, and perfecting the elect. The union between his presence and the soul was conditional on the correspondence and fidelity of the individual. While this is still the relation of the private Christian to the graces of the Spirit, the union of the Holy Ghost to the Church as a whole, as a body, is not conditional, but absolute, and therefore indissoluble to all eternity. Members, provinces, nations, particular churches may fall from it as some have fallen, but the body still remains, its unity undivided, its life indefectible.

The Holy Spirit speaking through the Church witnesses to the inspiration and right interpretation of the Scriptures. His presence is the unction from the Holy One which teaches the disciples of Christ all things. Through His constant operation the Church possesses the whole revelation of God. The whole truth concerning the Most High and the way of salvation is preserved by this Divine assistance in all its original purity, and it is perpetually proclaimed through the same guidance by a voice that cannot lie. Thus the Church is the instrument of the power of the Divine Spirit in diffusing the light of the Incarnation through the whole world and throughout all time. She is holy because the Spirit dwells within her. The streams of holiness flow into her from His presence, and the fruits of holiness are seen in her members. The sanctifying grace which flows to them through her seven sacraments is perpetual in its operations, initiates and envelops the whole spiritual life of man from birth to death, sanc-