

**Year of Faith**  
**Liturgical Minute No. 9**  
**Trusting in the Authority of the Church**

It is the plan of God that his message be communicated to individual men and women. God has determined from all eternity that his “good news,” the Gospel of salvation, would be broadcast to the world, first through his Son, and then through his visible Church, whose Head is Jesus Christ.

In John 7, Jesus declared to us, “My teaching is not my own, but his who sent me.” And then most clearly in John 14, “The Word that you have heard is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me.” Then in Matthew 28, Jesus told his followers, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..., teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

God did not want his teachings to be the plaything of individual speculations or personal feelings – or the football of deceivers or malcontents, nor the private domain or production of an elite. So – through his Apostles and the biblically established practice of the laying on of hands to anoint their successors – Christ established his Church, an infallible witness and objective messenger of his truth, to guarantee that his message will be public and open to all men and women.

It follows, then, that when the Church speaks, the Apostles speak – and when the Apostles speak, Christ speaks – and when Christ speaks, the Father speaks.

Major Source: Father Francis L.B. Cunningham, O.P., Magnificat Year of Faith Companion.