


[Previous Question](#)
[Next Question](#)

Sensus Fidelium

Question from David on 12/7/2005:



Father, I was hoping you could explain for me the concept of the "Sensus Fidelium". From what I understand, it has origins in "Lumen Gentium", and is the flip side of the coin to believing that Holy Spirit ensures the Church will always teach truly, that the Holy Spirit will likewise guide the faithful to accept these teachings. But who are we calling "the faithful", and how many of them need to accept? Does it need to be unanimous, or a majority?

Some of this seems to be quite unsettling, especially given the negative reaction from many to "Evangelium Vitae", among other Church Teachings.

God bless, David

Answer by Fr. Robert J. Levis on 12/9/2005:

David, The Spirit Christ Jesus left to guide, instruct, safeguard His Church on earth. WE call His presene Tradition. The spiritual Presence guarantees the Successor of Peter, the POpe, infallibility when speaking serious of faith and morals, also the Magisterium (the Bishops of the Church in union with Rome), and also the Faithful. This we call the "sensus fidelium" the meaning of the Faith within the body of the Faithful, the laity. The Magisterial Fathers in time teach and always remain in the closest touch with the Faithful whom they govern and sanctify. The same Spirit actively infusing His Will in the minds of the whole Faithful is also actively protecting the teaching Church, the Magisterium, how to interpret the will of the Faithful. God bless. Fr. Bob Levis

COPYRIGHT 2008

[Click here to send this Question and Answer to a friend](#)

[Previous Question](#)
[Next Question](#)

[Back to topics list.](#)