HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT AN INSPIRATION COMES FROM GOD?

ACQUIRE A SPIRITUAL SENSE

- Faithfully and resolutely follow Our Lord

- Spiritual hearing

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

  - Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, Fear of the Lord

- Listen for the Holy Spirit (practice, even if at first you hear nothing)

- "The sheep follow Him, for they know His voice." John 10:4

CRITERIA CONFIRMING THAT AN INSPIRATION COMES FROM GOD

GOD DOESN'T CONTRADICT HIMSELF

- The Holy Spirit cannot ask us anything that contradicts His Will as expressed by the usual means:
  - Word of God
  - Teaching of the Church
  - Demands of our Vocation

CONSISTENCY WITH HOLY SCRIPTURE AND THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

A divine inspiration cannot ask us to do something that contradicts what the Word of God teaches.

A divine inspiration cannot ask me to do something the Church considers immoral.

True inspirations always go in the direction of a spirit of obedience to the Church.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE DEMANDS OF OUR VOCATION

A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT

- Most important criteria says Fr Jacques
- Will produce sound fruit
  - Peace, joy, charity, communion, humility

- If it comes from us or the devil it will be:
  - Sterile, sad, bitterness, pride

BUILD UP EXPERIENCE

- Practice
- Trial and error
- Humility

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

- Be Aware, Understand, take Action

- Movements towards God and Away from God

- Pay attention

- Respond affirmatively to the movements towards God, reject the movements away from God

COMPLEMENTARY SIGNS

What comes from the Holy Spirit is:	What comes from our flesh or the devil is:
• Constancy • Humility	• Changing • Unstable

IS GOD'S WILL ALWAYS THE MOST DIFFICULT CHOICE?

- When God requires something of us, it is to help us grow in love.
- The only commandment is to love.

BIG VERSUS SMALL MOVEMENTS

- Big inspirations require more prayer and discernment

- Small inspirations that are good may be acted upon immediately because no harm can be done.

NUNC COEPI

- Begin again!