

Feast of the Holy Trinity 2020

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The doctrine of the Most Holy Trinity is a central teaching of our Church. God is one but God is also a trinity of persons. Each are distinct and yet the three are one. We can say that this belief is a mystery but it is not a mystery to be solved but rather a mystery to be experienced and imitated.

For me, this feast is all about relationships. We are celebrating that God is a communion of persons. This is really important. The very nature of God is to be in relationship. The three persons of the Trinity exist in a communion of love. Each member of the Trinity has a relationship with the others and their interaction with each other is perfect love.

The love generated by the Trinity does not stay locked up within God but is continuously being poured out into the universe and into our world. That is the nature of perfect love. Perfect love seeks to be shared with others. We know this from our own human experience. When we experience love for another, we naturally and automatically want to share ourselves with the one we love.

We believe that it was love that created the world and it was love that redeemed it and it is love that sustains it. Love always bears fruit. God the Father created us out of love. Jesus His Son redeemed us out of love and the Holy Spirit sustains out of love. And it will be this love, in its fullness, that will welcome and embrace us when pass from this life to the next.

The most incredible reality about the Holy Trinity is that God desires that we be drawn into the intimacy that is shared within the Trinity. Like a magnet God does everything to pull us into the inner life of the Trinity. God wants us to be one with Him in love.

Human beings are hard wired for love and for relationships. I don't know one person who does not desire to love and to be loved. God is love and

we are created in God's image and likeness. Our vocation as human beings is to love and to form relationships and communities of love. When we do this we become truly human.

This fact should direct the way we live our everyday lives. We need to be intentional about loving others, about our relationships, and about building communities of love that are modeled on the Holy Trinity.

I spoke on Friday night at our prayer service about the concept of kin and kinship. The word kin refers to members of a family. They may be blood relatives or people who share the same origin or qualities and characteristics. If human beings are created by God and if we all share the reality of being human, then we are kin to one another. If God desires all human beings to share in the perfect love of the Trinity then that means God desires that we also experience communion with one another as brothers and sisters.

The word kinship is very close to the word kingdom. Jesus came to establish the kingdom of God which would also be the kingdom of God - brothers and sister living together united by God's Spirit. It is to be kingdom of brothers and sisters living in a world of justice, peace, and especially love.

We are called to build communities of love modeled on the Holy Trinity. That sounds wonderful and I believe that it is true. The only problem is that the three persons of the Trinity are divine and we are not (though we do share in divine life). They are perfect and sinless and we are not. Each of us have been born into a world that has been tainted and broken by sin. Building communities of love and kinship is not easy to do and often we fail at it miserably. That is why we need divine assistance. We need to call upon the Holy Spirit to give us the power, love, and self control that we need in order to avoid sinful attitudes, inclinations, and behaviors that prevent us from building communities of love and kinship.

The reality of the sin of racism is an obvious example. But we are not without the power to rid the world of racism. We can beg the Holy Spirit to assist us in our ongoing conversion with regard to our biases, prejudices, fears, and attitudes about people who are different from ourselves. This, of course, requires first and foremost that we believe that racism is real and that it is wrong and that it has no place within our society. It also means that we admit that racism has inflicted great pain and suffering upon our brothers and sisters of color. It means repentance, penance, and reconciliation. It also means a firm commitment of the will and resolve to speak out against racist attitudes and behaviors and to stand with our brothers and sisters of color.

Within the Holy Trinity there is equality of persons and a deep and abiding reverence and respect for the other. In the same way, if the Trinity is our model for right living, we must be committed to seeing all human beings as equal, bearing the imprint of the image and likeness of God. We must insist on fair and just treatment for all and a profound reverence and respect for each and every human being.

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, let us commit ourselves to working to build communities of love. Let us commit ourselves to doing all that we can in our own corner of this beautiful world, to end the sin of racism and to recognize and acknowledge the dignity and preciousness of all human beings.