

## **Building Bridges - John 16: 12-15 -- 16 Jun 19 – Holy Trinity Sunday**

### **Intro**

Good afternoon my brothers and sisters in Christ. Today is Trinity Sunday and the theme of my homily is **building bridges**. We need the community of the Trinity in our daily lives to help us grow stronger in the conviction of our faith, in truth and the resolution to love each other without cost . How do we do that?

Happy Father's day and I offer a Father day's message of encouragement to all the men who are engaged in giving life , to promote not just **salt life** , **lake life** or **mountain life** ( like you see on the bumper stickers)

But **eternal life** . We promote eternal life by the way **we as men** receive and grow with the Trinity and model that life in our own families.

Sometime when I was 13-14, my 46 year old father came into my bedroom without announcement and sat on the lower bunk of our bunkbed, handed me a book and said (without looking at me)

**Here, read this and if you have any questions, just ask me.**

That was my '**birds and the bees**' talk. About a month later I gave the book back to him when we were alone in the house and I told him that **I did not have any questions**. I was too embarrassed and ignorant to ask even the first question. My dad tried, even though it was awkward for both of us; he was trying to do the right thing. He was giving me what my grandpap never gave him. My dad was trying to build a bridge to connect me to Jesus.

More of the story to follow.

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### Body

In the gospel passage from John today, Jesus is preparing his apostles for the traumatic days ahead. Jesus knows it will be overwhelming, so he assures them that while His message is too much right now, **the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit will set them straight.**

The truth of the Holy Spirit is not a message of HIS own, not spoken in isolation, but is the same message that Jesus has given to the Holy Spirit .

The truth of Jesus' message is not a message of HIS own, not spoken in isolation, but is the same message the Father has given to Jesus.

There is a **mutual ownership** of everything that is taught by God. The message of truth and love is the same; from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus will not be able to personally deliver His message to His Apostles, but assures them the **'Spirit of Truth'** will glorify Jesus and guide the apostles to **all truth**.

Jesus is really the **'bridge'** to join the **community of the Trinity** to the **community of humanity, the Body of Christ** , that began with his first disciples handed down to us today .

**The Trinity is always in community and desires to be in community with us ....**

It is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that shows us how **unity in diversity**, is expressed **by love and truth**

Let's look at John 17 v 26, we find that **Jesus himself prays for us;**

He prays that that we live **within** the relationship of Father to Son

***'that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.'***

This is the intimacy that Jesus prays for, that we will unite ourselves to the Trinity

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We Christians, and our brothers and sisters in Judaism and Islam believe in the patriarch Abraham and God's covenant with him. These three comprise what is known as the **Abrahamic Faiths**. All believe in one God.

What separates us from our Jewish and Islamic kindred is **Jesus** and the **three in one God known as the Trinity**. This belief of the Trinity is the core of Christianity.

It is Jesus who reveals the Trinity to us. When Jesus was born, he was 100% truly God and 100% truly human.

**God become a man so that we could be elevated to God**

Jesus is the **'bridge'** to join the **"community of the Trinity"** to the **'community of humanity'**.

The mass is rich with our prayers to the Trinity; when we make the sign of the cross to begin the mass and the recitation of Nicene or Apostles Creed.

Consider this, when Father elevates the Body of Christ and I assist by holding the Blood of Christ and he pronounces

"Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we respond with **Amen**

Think of the intimacy of Jesus (Trinity ) wanting to be with us ?

**when we receive Him in the Eucharist ...**

## **Closing**

### **Isn't it appropriate we celebrate Father's Day on the day this gospel is proclaimed?**

On this Father's Day we thank the Lord for the gift of all fathers and for the times they led , they have been **our bridge** from our **community of humanity to Jesus and the community of the Trinity**

We pray for all men: grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and cousins who have experienced the gift of fatherhood and for the gift of life they have given to their own children, **foster children** or ones entrusted to their care.

But we also need to be mindful of those **who may** experience **indifference or pain** during this Father's day:

- Men who have **not** desired or chosen the single life
- Those who wanted children, but we not able
- Those who had a **miscarriage** or a **still birth** or lost children **at any age**
- The young teen struggling with an unplanned pregnancy of his girlfriend
- A man who condoned or coerced an abortion in the past when he thought there was no other way and now regrets it years later

I ask you to be aware of all those men who struggle with fatherhood ... and we pray the Lord to grant them peace and healing **and to move our hearts** to help them.

Back to my dad .... Fast forward to 2007 .... Dad is 83 and I am 50 .... The Lord has blessed us over the years and we are talking about our Faith ... I told dad about studying the seven deadly sins after a Men's Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville and the temptation of lust ,

**I asked my dad, does it ever go away?**

This retired self-employed auto mechanic told me “**nope**”, but shared with me that

He was always faithful to mom and will be till the day he dies (which came three years later at age 86.

You see, like my dad , we do not have the perfect solution or answer to lead their children to Jesus. **To be that bridge to the Trinity.**

Many times, dads **grow into fatherhood**; we need not give up if we are not perfect.

it took dad several decades grow in His Faith to articulate to me the wisdom of God.

**My dad first gave me a book and then gave me an example, like Jesus , Dad said to me – Follow ME**

I know my dad was not perfect and neither is his middle son (me) , but dad did his best to lead our family to God’s son , to join Jesus , and bring our family to be in communion with the Trinity so that his little community of faith could someday join the Trinity for eternity

Now go do the same! Amen!