

HOMILY for FEAST OF HOLY TRINITY

After being shut down due to Corona Virus, the golf course in Heaven is finally open. Jesus, Moses, & an old man decide to go out for a round of golf & are teeing off on the 16th hole on this Heavenly golf course. The 16th hole is a par three over a lake. Moses, the first one to tee off, steps up & swings; & the ball dives right for the water. He instantly spread his arms; the water parts, & the ball rolls across the bottom of the lake & up on to the green. The others compliment him on his shot; & then Jesus steps up for his turn.

Like Moses, Jesus' ball heads straight for the water; but when it gets there, it just skips across the surface of the lake, continuing until it gets across & rolls up onto the green. After showering him with compliments, the old man steps up to take his shot.

His ball also dives for the lake, but bounces off the back of a turtle & onto the far shore. There, a squirrel picks up the ball & heads for the woods. As the others begin to laugh, a hawk swoops down & picks up the squirrel. As the hawk flies over the green, it squeezes the squirrel. The ball falls out of the squirrel's mouth, bounces once on the green, & then rolls into the cup.

Jesus turns to the old man & says, "Nice shot, Dad!"

That's the best cute story I could find for this Sunday's Feast of the Holy Trinity. Anyway, last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost to let us know how the Holy Spirit has taken over the work of Christ after His return to Heaven. As you might know, the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead like Jesus the Son. So, today the Church wants to explain to us about the entire Godhead with the Feast of the Holy Trinity. What can we say about the Holy Trinity? It's the mystery. The end!

Most of us would say that the Holy Trinity means there're three persons in the one Godhead being equal in power, but having different roles in our human history. The Holy Trinity is a theological idea that the Church has studied & come up with to make sense out of the mystery of God. As you might know, God is mysterious & difficult to understand. In the early human history, people imagined God to be polytheistic, meaning there're more than one god. That's why we've heard in mythologies & old stories about the Sun god, the Fire god, the Wind god, the Water god, & so on. Then Judaism & Christianity came along; & these two religions have been able to convince people to believe in one God. They've become monotheistic religions. But, they're still a long way from turning their belief in one God into a theological system that can explain about God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit. The Bible & the traditions of Judaism & Christianity give us many clues about them. So, are we going back to polytheistic religions like the early human history? No, we're not!

Thankfully, a couple of great theologians (St. Augustine & St. Thomas Aquinas) came along & helped the Church continue to keep its belief in one God while having three persons in the Godhead. They went into a detail explanation about the relationships of the three persons in the one Godhead. Basically God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit have their own gifts & roles in their interaction with the human family. But, they're not three independent individuals with different substances & personal freewill. Rather, they share the same substance & volition/will. The three persons of the one Godhead collaborate & work together throughout our human history to save us and bring us all back to God's Kingdom. We've taken for granted not only our salvation but also St. Augustine & St. Thomas Aquinas for their wonderful work on the Holy Trinity. Without their dedicated work & wisdom, we would not have the clear understanding & knowledge of the Holy Trinity as we do now. So, on this Feast of the Holy Trinity, I want us to acknowledge the hard work of those two great theologians & give them the due credit.

Another important thing I want to point out on the Feast of the Holy Trinity is the invaluable life lesson the three persons of the Godhead would teach us. That is, they would always work together to accomplish great things while maintaining their own personal identities. The three great things they've been able to accomplish so far are Creation, Salvation, & Sanctification. At the moment of Creation, the Son & the Holy Spirit joined hands with God the Father to bring about the human family & the whole

Creation. They did not let their pride and ego disrupt the great work of God the Father. Similarly, at the moment of Salvation, God the Son offered his own self on the Cross, with the guidance of the Father & the help of the Holy Spirit, to complete that awesome mission for us. If God the Son only thought about Himself & turned away from the Cross, we would not be saved & given a chance to enter Heaven. Finally, at the time of Sanctification, God the Holy Spirit stepped up to take over the work of the Son & has continued to lead the human back home to God the Father. If God the Holy Spirit has decided to do its own things, the salvation work would end with the Ascension of Jesus, or His return to Heaven. My friends, the Holy Trinity knows how to put the Common Good before their own needs to accomplish spectacular work throughout our human history. They've also had great respect & care for one another at all time. Without those core values (working for Common Good & having great respect & care for one another), there would be civil war & constant fighting within the Holy Trinity.

We're currently in a historical time of pain & civil unrest as a nation. We've seen how people have mistreated other human beings because of their skins or other biases & shown no concern about taking a life of another person. We've watched a peaceful demonstration turn into a destructive & violent riot. We've witnessed fighting & squabbling between law enforcement & demonstrators, between the powerful & the lowly, between the rich & the poor. The injustice & mistreatment will never stop unless everyone learns to love one's neighbors & put the Common Good before their own benefits like the three persons of the Holy Trinity have. The arguments & fights will never end unless everyone would show compassion for others & learn to make sacrifices for the Community like the three persons of the Holy Trinity have.

My dear brothers & sisters, the Holy Trinity is not just a nice theological concept. Rather, it's a great example to encourage us to put the Common Good before our own needs. It's also a good reminder to help us learn to show love & compassion for one another. If everyone learns to act like the Holy Trinity, all the mistreatments & injustice in this world will end. There won't be any more fighting & arguing either. Instead, we'll see a lot more love & wonderful work happening around us every day.