

HOMILY for the FEAST of the MOST HOLY TRINITY – Year A

This Sunday's celebration is about the Most Holy Trinity or, the identity of our God. Reflecting on it, I'm reminded of these letters that some Sunday School Children wrote to God.

Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.

Dear God, I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying.

Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. That was cool!

Dear God, are you really invisible or is that a trick?

Dear God, instead of letting people die & having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now?

And dear God, I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it.

Anyway, this Sunday the Church calls us to celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast reminds us of the true identity of our God, namely, one God in three persons. In ancient time, many human cultures might have worshipped an unknown god, or believed in many deities. That is why they often assumed that their gods fought with one another whenever they saw a natural disaster. Judaism, where Christianity originated was the first religion that has proclaimed its belief in only one god. That must have been a revolutionary idea of spirituality of the time. Yahweh then became the most trusted protector & supporter of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, & Moses. They in turn professed their belief in a central paradox of Judaism, namely, God is believed to be both unknowable in His infinite essence & yet recognizable as a personal presence in their lives. He may also be known through the events of history, which are believed to reflect a divine plan. The teaching that we are made "in the image of God" is understood to imply that, just as God is ultimately unknowable & infinite, so there is an aspect to ourselves which is similar: our inner essence or soul is unknowable to its totality. The goal of human endeavor becomes one of emulating the divine nature, which is essentially compassionate. Treating one's neighbor with respect & love is a way of manifesting the divine image in society.

Now we have some idea about the origin of our Christianity & see its similarities to Judaism. We can appreciate the paradox & mystery of the Christian beliefs. Although the three persons of the Holy Trinity were revealed throughout the New Testament (the second part of the Bible), the entire Godhead remains the mystery. We know that God the Father created the whole universe, God the Son was sent to the world to save it, & God the Holy Spirit was left behind to guide the people of God on the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. However, we do not see God with our own eyes every day. The only person of the Holy Trinity that we've heard a lot in our Christian faith & the New Testament is God the Son. He went from town to town to preach His Good News & did all kinds of miracles for the people of God. He brought them healing & hope. He showed all human emotions & acted like most of us except sins. Perhaps what distinguishes Him from all the humans was His divine nature. He used that advantage to perform miracles & point people to the Kingdom of Heaven. But, He did not do those miracles without the help of the Holy Spirit. The third person of the Holy Trinity is the second one who was mentioned a lot in the Bible besides God the Son. Yet, we do not see the Holy Spirit with

our own eyes every day. We can only feel the effects with or without the Holy Spirit in our daily life. The Holy Spirit can bless us with its seven gifts and twelve fruits that I talked about last Sunday. Those gifts & fruits can bring us a meaningful & joyous life.

Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity? What spiritual lesson can we learn from today's feast? Believe it or not, the Holy Trinity can teach us a lot about maintaining a healthy relationship & keeping a peaceful community. Although the three persons of the Holy Trinity are equal in power & authority, they never fought among themselves or tried to destroy the others to be the only powerful person. They were never envied with one another or, focused only on their own interests & benefits. Instead, they have always been concerned about the common good & looked out for the well-being of one another. They have cheered for & lifted up one another every chance possible. That is how the Holy Trinity has been able to keep peace & unity for itself. That is one of the great spiritual lessons that today's feast can teach us. We can look at how the three persons of the Holy Trinity treat & support one another & try to imitate them. In fact, today's Second Reading suggests that spiritual lesson to us as following, "Brothers & sisters, mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony & peace, & the God of love & peace will be with you."

As you might know, that spiritual lesson might sound simple. But, it's not easy to practice in our daily life. For we're often blinded by our own interests & less focused on the common good. We tend to look out only for our own benefits & ignore the welfare of our neighbors. That goes contrary to our Christian Commandments & the example of our God. We also get envied with one another easily & can step on our neighbors to achieve our goals without any hesitation. We fight with one another over every little thing & spread rumors & hate without any concern to get what we want. We do not work hard & make any personal sacrifice to bring harmony & peace to our community. That is why the God of love & peace cannot be found in our human family since Creation. So, if we want to end the waves of insane violence & boiling hate in our current world, we got to learn to lift up one another & promote harmony & peace every chance possible.

My dear brothers & sisters, we might wonder how the Holy Trinity can stay in peace & unity with one another for all these years. Their secret is to lift up one another & work hard for the common good in spite of their personal sacrifices. If we follow their example & do the same, we'll have a loving & peaceful home, community, & world.