

## **HOMILY for the FEAST of MOST HOLY TRINITY – Year C**

Reflecting on the Feast of Holy Trinity & Father's Day, I'm reminded of this classic cute story to tell you. Jesus, Moses, & an old man were teeing off on the sixteenth hole on Heaven's golf course. The sixteenth hole is a par three over a lake.

Moses, the first to tee off, steps up & swings, & the ball dives right for the water. He instantly spreads 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 rolls 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!"

Happy Father's Day to all dads! As you might have heard at the beginning of this Mass, this Sunday the Church invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast basically says that we Christians believe in one God in three persons (Father, Son, & the Holy Spirit) equal in majesty & sharing the same substance. Along with Judaism & Islam, Christianity has become one of the first & few religions that believes in & worships only one God, namely, it is a monotheistic religion. Before them, most religions of the world such as Buddhism & Hinduism, believe in more than one God; they are called polytheistic religions. The reasons for Christianity to come up with its monotheistic god in three persons can be found in this Sunday's Readings. For example, in today's First Reading, God the Father is described as following: "...From of old, I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. When there were no depths, I was brought forth... Before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth." So, God the Father was there before the Creation of the Universe, & later helped bring about the whole Creation. Or, today's Gospel shares with us additional information about God the Father as following: "...All that the Father has belongs to me [God the Son]. That is why I said that what He will announce to you, He will have from me."

Meanwhile, today's Gospel tells us about God the Son & the Holy Spirit as following: "...When it comes, being the Spirit of truth, it will guide you to all truth. It will not speak on its own, but will speak only what it hears & will announce to you the things to come." Besides that, today's Second Reading shares with us additional information about the Holy Spirit & the Holy Trinity this way: "...We are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... We know that affliction makes for endurance, & endurance for tested virtue, & tested virtue for hope. And this hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." So, we have been reconciled to God the Father with the help of Jesus God the Son. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit will bring us the love of God & all the tested virtues like hope. That is how the Holy Trinity is revealed to us in the Bible.

However, as we all know, the Holy Trinity remains a mystery to us despite all the revelations that the Bible tells us about it. In fact, I have to confess that the Holy Trinity is one

of the most challenging topics to preach about. I recall I went on vacation to Montana with some priests/classmates years ago & attended Mass at a local church on the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Its pastor gave a homily that was so dry & boring that it took us all the way back to those years in the seminary. He went on & on about the Holy Trinity in theological language & made it irrelevant to our daily life. That said, I promise to help us draw at least a couple of spiritual lessons from this Feast.

First & foremost, as I reflect on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, I have always been fascinated by & admiring about the relationships within it. God the Father never acted like a dictator or an authoritarian leader in this group. Although God the Son had to go down to earth to offer His own life on the Cross to reconcile us with God the Father, He did not rebel against His Father's wish & run away from that assignment. Or, the Holy Spirit never thought that it is better than God the Father or God the Son based on its power to help create the Universe & perform many miracles on earth respectively. Instead, the three persons of the Holy Trinity always respect & collaborate with one another, something we do not hear or see a lot about in our human history, especially in this day & age. If someone cooperates or compromises with the other side in our time, that person is considered a sold-out or a traitor. It's no wonder why we have had constant infightings & no progress on the work for the common good. It is time for our leaders to imitate the persons of the Holy Trinity & learn to work with one another for the sake of the common good.

Lastly, each person of the Holy Trinity is a great role model for us to look up to & create a harmonious & thriving community. Take God the Father for example, He always treats His creatures with love & compassion. That is why we often talk about God's unconditional love for us & compare God the Father to the forgiving father of the Prodigal Son. That is why we are grateful to our compassionate God to send us the Son to reconcile us with Him by His death on the Cross. Meanwhile, God the Son can teach us a lot about humility & obedience with His assignment to earth. He was never prideful & rebellious toward God the Father or His mission. Finally, God the Spirit is dedicated & always hard at work to serve the common good, whether it is the creation of the world or the salvation of the human family. God the Spirit is never full of hate & vengeance as we have seen it happening all over the place in our world these days. Perhaps we all need to imitate the Holy Spirit & invite it to fill up our world & transform it.

My dear brothers & sisters, the Holy Trinity might still be a mystery to us. But, it has been revealed to us in the Scriptures & the incarnation of God the Son. It sure has a lot to teach & offer us. Most importantly, it can show us how to collaborate & work with one another to create a harmonious & thriving community. It can also be a great role model for us as we celebrate Father's Day this weekend. May all of our fathers be like God the Father of the Holy Trinity & lead their families close to the Promised Land in Heaven.