

Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2010

Fr. Larry Richards

Good Morning. What is today? Trinity Sunday, very good. And what are you never to do on Trinity Sunday in Erie, Pennsylvania? Go swimming. You know where these things come from I don't know. I guess throughout the years people drown on Trinity Sunday. It is a day to drown. So let us pray no one drowns today, God willing. Anyway so don't go in the water.

So today as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity it is a great day to have a Baptism. Because what will happen is this child will be caught up into the very relationship of the Trinity. If you listen to the Opening Prayer today just the first part it says, "You reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in Your life and in Your love." You reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in Your life and in Your love. That is what the Church prays today. That we talk about the Trinity, how it reveals itself inside of us because the core of our faith is the teaching of the Trinity. That God by definition has always existed, but this God is love and by definition love has got to be outpouring. Love has got to have something to give itself to. And so for all eternity the Father has always loved the Son, the Son has always loved the Father, and their love is so real it becomes the Holy Spirit. Now we say the prayer, especially priests and deacons and religious, we say a prayer again and again and again, Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, amen. Now as a priest and that, we must say that prayer I think twenty times a day. At the end of all of the psalms you say that prayer. But often as I am saying that prayer, I don't for me like talking about Jesus when Jesus is right in front of you, right? That is why I am very big when we do any kind of praise or worship songs on Wednesday or during Adoration during TEC I tell the singers don't you dare sing about Jesus Christ in front of Christ. It is kind of like talking about Fr. Larry Richards when I am standing right here. "Do you know Fr. Larry is a jerk." and I am standing right here. Just look at me and say I am a jerk. Thank you very much. Don't talk about me when I am right smack in front of you. The same with the Trinity. So in my own personal prayer instead of saying Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, I always say, not when I am doing it in public of course, but glory to You Father, to You Lord Jesus and to You Holy Spirit to show that they are in the very presence, my very presence, more to the point their presence. I make this prayer a personal prayer to the Trinity who dwells in me and around me and above me and before me. And who is present right here.

This past Wednesday and Thursday I was down in Mobile, Alabama. I spoke at Legatus on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning we had about 300 men. These poor guys woke up at 6 o'clock and we had our talk from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. So there were these 300 men and as I have said many times I believe most Catholics, not just Catholics, Christians, all religious people, half of them are usually cultural Christians or cultural Catholics. Meaning what do you do? I am a cultural Catholic. I go to church on Sunday. I try to be a good person but I am not in a relationship with God. And see what God is calling you and me to is to go much farther than just the cultural stuff. He is calling you and me into intimacy. He is calling this little boy today into intimacy with Him. So that He takes up and brings all of us into intimacy of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

So the question I am going to ask you very simply is, are you in a relationship with the Lord; with the Father, with the Son, the Holy Spirit? Are you in this relationship with Him or are you just going through the motions? Are you just showing up at church on Sunday and trying to be a good person. I cannot answer that for you. I can't answer that for me. I think for most of us it is a little bit of both. There are times when I am very good about entering in relationship with the Lord and there are other times when I just go through the motions. This morning I sat there and woke up and my breviary is right next to me and I realized I didn't say night prayer last night. I thought oh, oh. I am very scrupulous about such things. Oh, I didn't say night prayer last night. So I said night prayer this morning at 6:30 that I was suppose to say last night because I wanted to make sure I got it in. Then after I was done I thought all I did was do that to make sure I got the requirement in. As priests and deacons we make a promise to always say the Office of the Church. But, I really went through the motions of it. As I was doing that I was thinking why did I do that? Why did I forget last night? I know I forgot but that is besides the point. And then right after I went and took a shower and I am all excited and I am getting dressed, then Rex jumps up on top of me and pees all over me, right after the shower. Did you ever happen to take a shower and you feel all clean, you feel all great and then this puppy...I was not a happy camper. He was all excited to see after I came out of the shower.

The reality is when I am talking to this guy in Mobile he says, "Father, you talk about surrender, how come we don't hear much about surrender? And I don't know why we don't hear much about surrender. But the difference between being a cultural Catholic and being one in relationship, is that one word, surrender. Will you surrender yourself to the intimacy of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Will you stop, just stop just in the midst of these prayers you and I say, just stop and say I surrender and get caught up in the mystery of the unity of the Trinity. That the God who catches us up in His own life and His own love, that is what He wants of us. And we can't do it if we are just saying our prayers, just trying to be a good person, just going through the motions. We have got to stop and we have got to surrender. And when you and I fully surrender, which is a process, it is nothing that happens instantly. But again, I surrender, I surrender, I surrender. I give myself to You and He can take me up into the Trinity and let me part of the love and the life of God. That is what we celebrate today. And that is what we celebrate as we bring this sleeping child with the pagan godfather into the Church. Got it? Get it? Going to do? May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.