

June 15, 2014

Trinity Sunday – Cycle A

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Good Morning! Today there's evidence that St. Paul was Italian. Do you know why? Because he said, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." You know how the Italian's, (kiss) I love you, (kiss) I love you more, (kiss) I love you more. But anyways, that's true you know it is. You know, Italian's are big kissers. But anyway, if you go to Italy even the guy's kiss each other it's one of those things. Glad we're not in Italy. But anyway we don't want to start. We should be fundamentalists in all things right? Except greet one another with a holy kiss. But think about that so that's the way they did it. It has nothing to do with my homily.

But anyway, today we focus on the Feast of the Holy Trinity. So today is a part of our revelation. It's the core of our revelation. Where God reveals to us who He is. And if you listen to the Gospel what God reveals to us who He is, is God is love. For God so loved. That's the basis of the Trinity. The basis of the Trinity of who God is, is love. Right? We believe in one God in three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Neither is greater than the other. Neither of them are of the other. Both of them are of one being in three divine persons. That's what we believe.

Again I've used the analogies before one of the greatest ways you can look at that to explain as we look at a candle. There's the candle and there's the blue part and there's the clear part and there's the white part the candle flame I mean. And so it's one flame yet three parts. And again that's a bad analogy if you just leave it there. Same with the whole thing of St. Patrick when he gave the analogy of the shamrock. But the reality is that what we believe about this God what He has revealed to us is from all eternity God was never alone. He's always been this community of love. And what happens is, is when He reveals Himself to us He calls us into participation in this community of love by adoption. It's called the divinization of man. The divinization of man means that when Christ took on humanity, when God took on humanity, humanity took on divinity. So in Christ we are invited into this relationship of love forever.

And so, what does that look like? Well, first the thing we got to do is surrender to the Holy Spirit. You know because when we go to pray it's a participation in God. It's not a God being way up there and I'm down here and I'm no good, no, no, no. When I make the beautiful sign of the cross, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, when I'm inviting the God of the Universe to be part of my prayer not the part of it to be the essence of my prayer it's like the Holy Spirit swoops down if you will, which again is a bad analogy, and lifts us up into the very presence of Almighty God. We get to participate in the love of the Trinity by adoption. So again, let's first focus for a moment on our prayer. Is our prayer life a participation in the Trinitarian life of God? Is our prayer life an experience of love with the Trinity? And if not then it is something we have to grow deeper in. Right? Because again, it's not about just give me,

give me, I want, I need, but God, I want to be part of you. And to be part of God means that we need to become more and more surrendered to God who is love. Okay?

Then it means then must bring the Trinity if you will to everybody we meet. What does that look like? I think I was reflecting on last night and I been reflecting on my own life, what does it look like to bring the Trinity to others? And I think Paul tells us today because he talks about, "may the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with your all." So he's trying to show us that this is what it is to be part of the Trinity. First of all he talks about the grace. Now grace by definition is a free unsubstantiated, unmerited gift of God. And so what we need to be is these people who give unmerited gifts. That we are people who are freely loving of others whether they deserve it or whether they don't deserve it. That a free gift, like God has loved us, right, before any of us and none of us still deserve it and He still loves us. And so He says, "You see how I am with you?"

And then the Gospel makes it clear. "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son," and then, "God did not send His Son to condemn it but to save it." So it must be that way with us. That's called grace. So we need to be these instruments of grace. That means we so love the world, not the sin of world like we talked before, but the people of the world whether they deserve it or not. That means again, I've said this a thousand times but it still hits me when Mother Teresa was talking to all the people you know in her community and she says, "The one sin that I never had to confess was," what? "Judgment." And the Monsignor looked at her and said, "Okay Mother, come on, you never judged anybody?" And she goes, "Oh no, if I'd judge them, I can't love them. "I remember when I was in Ireland when I read that I felt like I am never going to make it to heaven. There's no way it's going to work for me.

And so the reality is that if God so loved the world that He sent His only Son not to condemn it but to save it, that means you and I got to so love the world, the people of the world. We don't judge the world because if we're judging them we're not loving them. And see that takes us to the next space. First of all if I am this gracious person and graciousness looks like generosity. That's what it looks like. Graciousness looks like generosity in our life. That we give of our life, we give of our time, we give of our gifts, we give it all because that's the way God is. And it's not even an option. It something what we must do to participate in this Trinity of God. Then it says, "may the love of God" and so what we look like we need to be people of love.

Now I was just on EWTN and we we're doing the four episodes of Crossing the Goal. And it was on the Holy Spirit. And so we're talking about the Holy Spirit and so Danny says, "Oh Father, what is your greatest fruit of the Holy Spirit do you believe?" And I said, "patience." And they all laughed. I couldn't believe it. Why you laughing? I don't get it. But anyway, so, I sat there and said, "I am a very patient person." And they are all like, "Yeah, yeah, right, we all know you Father." Shut up. But anyway, they said, "What do you struggle with the most?" I said, "Well I struggle with the most of the fruits and gifts is the love part." Because it's easy to be a talker on love, it will kill you to be a true lover, correct? It will kill you by definition.

Which means I must be giving up my life every day. That means I always going to put people in front of me. And that's a hard thing. You know, oh yes, I am very loving. Oh, shut up. Am I?

And the answer is no. Do I have to get better? The answer is oh, yes. But it's a gift of the Holy Spirit. It's one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. So again, the more I surrender to God and let him take control of my life, the more loving that I become. Correct? It's not something that I decide I am going to do this. It's something I become an instrument of. And so, we need to surrender more. But that means that I am always in my day life day in day out, I am always putting other people first. That's what it looks like to be part of the Trinity by adoption.

The last thing it says, "And the," what, "of the Holy Spirit? Fellowship." Again, it always about community when we come to serve God. There is no lone rangers in Christianity. That when we decide, when we come to church and we say, "I just come to church it's my only time to have peace." No, no. We come to church to fellowship. To fellowship with Almighty God and to fellowship with each other. Baptism is not just about entering into a relationship and being adopted by God the Father. We are going to do two baptism's today. Part of these children when they get baptized now means that they fellowship with all of us. That were all a member of the family.

So what do I do to be a part of the family? What do I do to fellowship? I am a part of this community to be a fellowship with one another? Or do I just come to church to worship God? That isn't why we come to church. You can worship God anywhere. It's not the only reason we come to church. We come to church to worship God and to fellowship. And so on this day, the holy day of Holy Trinity, we know who God is. God is love. And we know that He calls us to participate in this Trinity. And the way we do this? Is we're graciously generous. We're filled with love and we believe and we do everything to fellowship with one another. Got it? Get it? Going to do it? May each of you know His love today and forever, amen