

Solemnity of Holy Trinity C/2016

Anytime we start the Holy Mass, we make the sign of the cross. The sign of the cross is a confession of faith in God made visible through an external gesture of what we believe in our heart. By doing it, we proclaim in words and sign the truth that God is one, but in three persons, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

That reality of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is what we celebrate today in the solemnity of the Holy Trinity. The Trinity, in truth, describes the innermost life of God and defines his deep identity.

A question some would ask is to know how we come to the confession of the Holy Trinity. Well, we come to it by observing the unfolding of the history of salvation. In fact, through the unfolding of salvation history, we know for sure that God is essentially love. It is out of love that he created the world. Out of love, he sent Jesus into the world in order to be our savior. Jesus, in turn, manifested his love for the world by giving up his life on the cross and by leaving us the Holy Spirit so that we do not remain orphans.

The mystery of the love that unites the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as one God, is what we call Trinity. Trinity, then, is the celebration of the identity of God as he has revealed himself to us through salvation history as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The truth of the mystery of God as Trinity pervades over all the readings of this day. The first reading underlines the fact that all the creatures existing in the world are not the result of a blind mechanism of the universe, but rather created by a provident and wise God. They have been created with a plan and an order. God's wisdom assisted him all over the work of creation. Consequently, creation complies with a divine plan, though our human intelligence cannot grasp it.

In fact, we are like a child watching his father working in his workshop to build a table. What he sees is just some pieces of wood lying on the floor, without order. When the table is built, he realizes how everything was part of a plan that his father had in his mind.

To have faith in God the Father is to believe that he has created everything with wisdom and love, even if we cannot comprehend all of that creation and its ramification. It is that mysterious plan of God that has also led Jesus to come into the world and to be our savior.

By becoming one of us, Jesus shared in our human nature with its joys and its sorrows, its anxieties and its hopes. The main message of Jesus to the world is that the Father loves us and wants us to belong to his kingdom. For that reason, we are not just anybody, but we are his beloved children and coheirs with Jesus. In the same way, our life is destined to be more than what we can see or we are living in the present time.

That is the reason why St Paul says that because of Jesus, we have peace with the Father and have access to his grace in the hope of our eternal glory. For that reason, whatever happens in our life, we know in faith that we are at peace with God through Jesus, who died for our sins.

To have faith in Jesus is, then, to believe that God loves us to the point of sharing the instability and the weakness of our lives. It means also to trust him with the firm

conviction that he will never abandon us and that his infinite bounty is at work in us even though in the present time, we are surrounded with problems, sufferings and death.

The challenge we all have is not only to believe in the continual and loving presence of God and Jesus in the world, but also that of the Holy Spirit. That is why we need to unceasingly remember that God is with us until the end of the world as Jesus promised. In that sense, the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of God's promise and the confirmation of his loyalty towards us.

The Gospel of this Sunday clarifies the task of the Holy Spirit as he brings to its completion, in the world, the work of the Father and the Son. As Jesus says, the Spirit will take that which is his and declare it to the world. But as everything that belongs to Jesus belongs at the same time to the Father, it implies that the Spirit will glorify both the Father and the Son.

In that sense, God is glorified when his plan of salvation is fulfilled and reaches out to every creature so that each one turns to him. Jesus has glorified the Father because he has fulfilled the mission entrusted to him. The Spirit, in turn, glorifies Jesus because he opens the minds and the hearts of people to listen to his word. The Spirit equally endows people with heavenly gifts so that they are able to love each other beyond human barriers. He renews personal relationships and helps people to live in peace with one another. Consequently, the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is that we accept to live as God's children.

The Trinity is the feast of love and of community of life that exists between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a celebration of the communion that unites the divine persons in their equality and difference. It expresses the relationships of mutuality and reciprocity that exist between them. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit dwell in one another without being confused or reduced by one another. Though they are three, they are just one inseparable God whose actions are interdependent.

The feast of the Holy Trinity challenges us deeply. Because the Trinity is relational, the triune God invites us to build strong relationships among us and with one another. The more we do it, the more we bear witness to the true identity of our God. Because the Trinity is relational, the triune God invites us to practice the values of "inclusivism" and tolerance. "Inclusivism" means the acceptance of each individual as he is, because of our same and common human nature.

Finally, the Trinity is a divine family where the Trinitarian persons are equal. If that is true, then, our own families must come to develop strong relationships and an open communication among its members. Let us ask that grace in this celebration. May God come to the help of all those who experience difficult relationships with people around them! May God bless us all and strengthen our relationships with one another!

Proverbs 8: 22-31; Romans 5: 1-5; John 16: 12-15



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