

The Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity C2022

I want to start the homily of this solemnity of the Holy Trinity with a story that can help us understand and deepen the mystery of salvation we celebrate today.

There is a story told about St. Augustine. Before becoming a Christian, he was pondering on the teachings of the Church. One of the doctrines he had a problem with was the Holy Trinity. He was wondering how there could be three persons, but one God. One day, as he was walking along a sea pondering deeply on this mystery, "Suddenly he came upon a little boy who had dug a hole in the sand and was going back and forth to the ocean with a shell. He would fill the shell with water and then come back and empty it into the hole. Over and over he did this.

Augustine asked him, "What are you doing, little boy?" And the boy answered, "I am emptying the ocean into this hole in the sand." And very reasonably, Augustine replied, "But that's impossible." "No more impossible," said the lad, "than your trying to understand how there can be three persons in one God."

Augustine felt challenged by the answer of the boy; he understood that mysteries are object of faith and not of logical speculation. The mystery of the Holy Trinity can be understood only in faith. Even though, there is still a question we have to answer: how do we come to the confession of faith in the Holy Trinity?

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 in order to save the world and out of love that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us 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 factor that unites together the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is love. It was love that pushed the Father to create the world. All the creatures existing in the world are not the result of a blind mechanism of the universe, but rather created lovingly 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. The whole of creation complies with a divine plan, though our human intelligence cannot grasp it.

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. We human beings are God's beloved children and coheirs with Jesus. Our life is destined to more than what we can see and more than what we live in the present time. Because of Jesus, we have peace with the Father and have access to his grace in the hope of our eternal glory. Whatever may happen to us in this life, we are at peace with God through Jesus, who died for our sins.

To have faith in Jesus is to believe that God loves us to the point of sharing in the meander of our human life, with its ups and downs. 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 be unceasingly remembered 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.

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 endows us with heavenly gifts so that we are able to love each other beyond human barriers and differences. The Holy Spirit renews the personal relationships of people so they live in peace with one another. 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 to one another. Though they are three, they are just one inseparable God whose actions are interdependent.

The feast of the Holy Trinity challenges us in our lives. 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.

The Holy Trinity is the family of God. In this divine family the Trinitarian persons are equal and interdependent. We are called, as human families, to imitate them. Our families must come develop strong relationships and an open communication among its members in imitation of the Holy Trinity. 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! May God bless you all!

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



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