

Most Holy Trinity, Cycle C: 30 May, 2010

Today we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and it is a day that homilists usually do one of two things. Some will choose to offer a homily that is very technical and scholarly as they offer a discourse on the theology of the Triune God. They will talk about God being three Divine persons who are of the same substance. They may even launch off into discussions of the spirations and generations within the Godhead and they will almost certainly mention hypostases. Now it's quite obvious that such a homily is very heady and not related to our daily lives. Well, you don't have to worry, because I'm not going to do that.

The second way that homilists would address the subject is to avoid the topic all together. Well, I'm not going to do that either. Today is devoted to the Holy Trinity and I'm going to talk about the Holy Trinity.

Now, you must realize that I'll be talking about a "mystery" as I discuss the Holy Trinity with you. I'll be talking about a God who is completely "other" yet is closer to us than we are to ourselves. So, it shouldn't come as a surprise to us that this "mystery" of which I am speaking takes the prize for being beyond our comprehension. Yet, while we will engage our minds and utilize our languages in an attempt to describe the inexpressible, we will always fall short, because by reason alone we can't reveal to ourselves the mystery that lies behind the "mystery". We can only begin to experience it through faith. But, once we feel it being revealed to us, then we can use our reason and intellect to begin and unlock and partially illuminate that hidden "mystery".

We might even ask ourselves the following question: Why did God even bother revealing a portion of this "mystery" to us? Surely, it wasn't so that theologians would have something to study and write about, nor, was it meant to produce arguments or confusion as we attempt to express its validity and meaning to the world for over the past 2,000 years. No, I believe that the "mystery" of the Trinity was revealed so that it could make a real and concrete difference in our lives.

Our understanding of God in three persons opens the door to our understanding of God as a "community" of persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It leads to the beautiful and dynamic truth that God's inner life is one of community. God is relationship, action and interaction and in the broadest sense, alive. So, what does all of that mean to us? It means this: If God, the very definition of what it means to be fully alive is in communion, then we are called to be alive and in communion as well.

But who are we called to be in communion with? Well, the knee-jerk response would be with God of course. Yet, loving God is the easy part. The really obvious challenge comes when we enter into communion with one another. Now, we can't have it just one way. You can't love only God, while ignoring your brothers and sister throughout the world.

Let me ask you a question: If you had to prove to someone that you truly loved God, how would you go about it? Seriously, what evidence could you produce to convince someone that you loved God? Clearly, the only evidence that we would have is the manner in which we interact with other people. That's all we have. We can't be unloving and separated from our fellow human beings and claim to love God. We just can't! The Trinity is a communion of love. And if we want to share in all that God offers and promises, then we need to do all we can in building loving relationships with one another.

So, if you're starting to wonder whether you can produce any evidence that demonstrates your love of God, that's okay. In fact, it's probably a good sign. Because it's only by taking an honest look at ourselves, will we then be able to grow into the people that God wants us to be.

Do you want to experience God's love? Love someone.

Do you want to be forgiven? Stop holding grudges.

Do you want God to answer your prayers? Meet someone else's needs.

Do you want to experience new life? Be life giving to others.

We shouldn't have to go through the challenges of life all alone, and others shouldn't either. We are in luck, because the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Most Holy Trinity, are there to show us how to experience life at its fullest.