

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
12 June 2022

A Reflection of the Pastor

Because the Christian God is not a lonely God, but rather a communion of three persons, faith leads human beings into the divine communion...Communion with this God is at once also communion with those others who have entrusted themselves in faith to the same God. Hence one and the same act of faith places a person into a new relationship both with God and with all others who stand in communion with God. - Miroslav Volf

There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there too. But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath. Then he must be dug out again.
Etty Hillesum

On the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, a feast day on which we affirm our faith in the triune God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity teaches us the importance of communion, as the three persons of God share in a communion of love that offers us a model for our own Christian life. As the Father, Son, and Spirit are one God, we as Christians are the many members of the One Body of Christ, distinct but united in an interconnected love for God and each other.

A God who longs to be intimate with us.

The beautiful but paradoxical expression of St Augustine – is “closer to us than we are to ourselves” is the message coming from readings of today. God is not far away, that he is not up there somewhere in the sky. Our God is deeply connected with us since the beginning of creation. We don't have to go somewhere else to find Him. The responsorial psalm bears this beautifully:

O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!
When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place —
What is man that you should be mindful of him,
or the son of man that you should care for him?

We need to hear that again and again and to become utterly aware of his presence especially during these troubled times. Tenderness and compassion replacing fear and hatred. Anger replaced by kindness. Tough and difficult because we are consumed right now by gun violence across America from schools, to Churches, to hospitals and shopping malls. We need to anchor our response based on our faith and not on our fears for survival. St Paul writes in the second reading:

Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Jesus is the human face of our God. God is not hidden behind the humanity of Jesus but is seen precisely in that humanity. When is Jesus most clearly revealing of the Father? In his miracles? Certainly. But surely Jesus is most clearly revealing the heart of the Father when he is at his most human. We see the Father God most clearly in Jesus in his compassion for the weak, the needy, the sinner; in forgiving the sinner and his enemies; in healing the physically and mentally sick; in integrating the social outcast back into the community; in his unconditional acceptance of all irrespective of class, religion, or gender. Yes, our Father God really loves us and that has been shown to us by the Only Begotten in Jesus.

The meaning of the Spirit is that God is indwelling in all creation and revealing himself through it. Wherever there is Truth or Love or Beauty, there is God. Every act of truth and integrity, every act of love and compassion, every act of human empathy, every act of solidarity, forgiveness, acceptance, justice in people is the Spirit of God working in and through us. When such actions appear in us, they are a sign that we are open to the Spirit and that he is working in us and through us. Friends, family, co-workers, parishioners — we need one another. Like our God, it is our nature to be interactive, not isolated. If we truly believe in a God who exists as three beings in one, then we believe in a God who is relational. God wants to be in relationship with us – a relationship of love, justice and peace and one with all creatures.

Pope Francis says: Today's celebration, therefore, makes us contemplate this marvelous mystery of love and of light from which we come and toward which our earthly journey is guided. In the message of the Gospel and in every form of Christian mission, one cannot overlook this unity among us to which Jesus calls, following the unity of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: one cannot overlook this unity. The beauty of the Gospel asks to be lived — unity — and witnessed in the harmony among us, who are so diverse! And this unity, I dare say, is essential to Christians: it is not an attitude, a manner of speaking, no; it is essential, because it is the unity that arises from love, from the mercy of God, from the justification of Jesus Christ and from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Mary Most Holy, in her simplicity and humility, reflects the Beauty of the Triune God, because she fully welcomed Jesus into her life. May she sustain our faith; may she make us worshippers of God and servants of our brothers and sisters.