

## Homily - Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity C

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Beloved, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Since the Trinity is the highest mystery of faith, we definitely need the Holy Spirit to understand it. Hence, it is always celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost. Jesus stresses this point in our Gospel passage (John 16:12-15), "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.... Everything that the Father has is mine."

From the above quotation, Jesus shows that the Three Persons in one God are one and equal. "Everything that the Father has is mine" and the Holy Spirit knows all truth, all mysteries; God knows all. Our First Reading (Prov 8:22-31) reiterates this oneness of God and shows that it is eternal. The wisdom of God says, "The LORD possessed me, the beginning of his ways ...the first, before the earth. .... When the Lord established the heavens I was there." Finally, the Second Reading (Rom 5:1-5) shows the Holy Spirit as God's love; "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Brothers and sisters, some people may wonder and ask, "Why does the Church even bother to reflect on the Mystery of the Trinity? Why not spend time reflecting on the modern issues "people care about" – poverty, relief for earthquake and disaster victims, HIV epidemic, the threat of wars and terrorism, lack of jobs, the oil spill in the Gulf, etc. Why not focus on the moral problems of the world, and how to heal the world? Is the Church out of touch? Not at all!

Beloved, religion is primarily about God, about the worship of God and the celebration of the mysteries of God. Hence, Jesus pointed out, "Seek you first the kingdom of God...." One of the greatest mistakes in our world today is the false notion that we can side track the Creator and still make things work. Truly, as is evident from biblical history, many problems in the world are caused by the attempts of humans to dispense with God. We cannot get interested just with the created world and neglect the Creator. We cannot be interested just in the gift and neglect the Giver of the gift. What kind of son or daughter would one be that would be happy if his wife or husband says "I care about you alone, I don't care about your father or mother"; "I don't care about your family!"

On a few occasions, I have heard some misguided comments, "God doesn't care whether I know the Trinity or not, He only wants me to live fine and love my fellow humans." This is what my Moral Theology Professor in

the seminary identified as "The Error of Horizontalism." Such errors find their place with theist philosophers, like Ludwig Feuerbach who says, "My only wish is...to transform friends of God into friends of man, believers into thinkers, devotees of prayer into devotees of work, candidates for the hereafter into students of the world, Christians who, by their own admission, are "half animal, half angel" into persons, into whole persons" ([http://thinkexist.com/quotes/ludwig\\_feuerbach/](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/ludwig_feuerbach/)).

Beloved, God cares. He not only cares, He also wants to be first in every aspect of our lives. In fact, Jesus shows why learning about God is indispensable. First, in order that we may have eternal life; "This is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). Second, so that we will be blessed with the love of God, "I made known to them thy name... that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26). Third, in order to understand our identity, who we are, since we are made in God's image: of oneness, "Holy Father, keep them in thy name ... that they may be one, even as we are one.... even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us" (John 17:11, 21); of holiness ("to be set apart from the world"), "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14, 16); of truth, "Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth...." (John 17:17, 19); of glory, "The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them" (John 17:22); of Trinitarian love, "Thou... hast loved them even as thou hast loved me" (John 17:23). Can you see all we stand to gain through openness to God?

Finally, concerning the world and the challenges we face, the knowledge of the Trinity underscores that we are not alone in our struggles (no matter what they are); God triumphs in us and through us, "I am glorified in them (John 17:10). We therefore need a Trinitarian worldview. I must see the world in relation to God, myself and others; God, my family and other families; God my country and other countries; God, my planet earth, and other planets. God has set the stage for interdependence. God does not want individualism. God is family; we are called to be like Him by living in communion with others in oneness, love, peace, mercy, forgiveness, kindness, dignity and truth. Without God, life is a shattered dream!