

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, A – June 7, 2020 – Very Rev. Bryan W. Jerabek, J.C.L.  
Cathedral of St. Paul, Birmingham – 5pm Vigil; 7:15, 8:30, & 11am Sunday Masses – 850 words

In the passage of the book of Exodus, our first reading for this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Moses has to go up a mountain to meet God. And he pleads with him, “do come along in our company.... receive us as your own.” But when we take into account the fullness of God’s gradual revelation of himself throughout Sacred Scripture and as handed onto us by the Church, we understand now that our God is not distant, only to be found on the heights or otherwise in remote places. Moreover, he does not merely walk with us; he has truly received us as his own, and he dwells within us. He shares his very life with us.

He is the “God of love and peace”, as St. Paul said in the second reading. In fact, St. John the Evangelist defines the one God as love itself. This is so because of the relationship between the three divine Persons. Love is always relational, involving subject and object. In the Holy Trinity there are three subjects – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because they are divine, their love is perfect; whereas we struggle to make a full gift of ourselves, they easily do so. So the Father gives himself fully to the Son, and the Son gives himself fully to the Father; and that mutual, complete gift of self is the Holy Spirit, the love shared between them.

But the circle is not closed; as I said, the Triune God dwells within us, also, and shares his very life with us – especially through the Church’s sacramental life. That indwelling and gift begins at Baptism. It was strengthened and completed at Confirmation. Through the Eucharist, we receive Christ himself – but where he is, so are the other two Persons. Thus, with every good Holy Communion, God’s presence in us increases. Confession restores or solidifies his life in us. The Anointing of the Sick assists us in offering ourselves to God through our illnesses. And Holy Orders configures a man so that he can be an agent of the Trinity’s salvific work in the world.

Holy Matrimony, of all the sacraments, bears a special resemblance to that Trinitarian life of love that I just described. Man and wife mutually give themselves in a union blessed by God. And that love bears fruit, when possible, in children. The family of father, mother, and child is an image of that Divine “family” of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A priest may well be an agent of the Holy Trinity’s saving work – but we cannot have priests unless we first have families. In a very real way, the faithful and fruitful love of married couples is a part of God’s loving plan of salvation. The “earthly trinity” is profoundly connected with the heavenly Trinity!

But this may not always seem to be the case, for family life can be so ordinary. We want the things of God – and yes, even the things of earth – to be more exciting. In our time, there is a great thirst for novelty, and we saturate ourselves with stimulants of all sorts. See how difficult it was for so many to go without eating out, going to the movies, and seeking other amusements during the pandemic lockdown! With the help of divine wisdom, however, we come to learn that part of God’s greatness and almighty power is that he does great things even in small and quiet ways. He is very much present in the ordinariness and even the *ennui* of daily living.

The challenge for us is to perceive God’s presence not only within us, but also within the peaceful quiet of an ordinary daily life. But is peace the reality for us all? Of course not. In some of our families there is strife, unforgiveness. For some, things are just broken, plain and simple. And all of us experience those attacks on our family’s existence that come from the evil one, for he knows that the family is an image of the Holy Trinity, and in his hubris, he wants to destroy it. Then there are those external factors, such as the incredibly turbulent times we are living through. How can we maintain God’s presence and peace through all of this?

We need to turn to the one who most perfectly cooperated with the Holy Trinity’s presence in her – our Blessed Mother. For the 30 years of Christ’s hidden life she, St. Joseph, and Jesus lived that quiet and ordinary existence that is so often our lot. And even though they most certainly

did not face strife and brokenness amongst themselves, she most certainly has never hesitated to come to the aid of those who do. I again wish to repeat my plea that you pray her Rosary daily for peace, as I recently have asked in parish communications. The Lord is near and in our midst. He – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – dwells with us and accompanies us through it all. Our Lady understands this better than anyone; she will always help and guide us.