

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY: SOLIDARITY

A colleague and I were killing time in the Jakarta airport until we could board our return flight to the United States. In 1998, this Indonesian airport had little to offer—a few shops, a couple of mom and pop diners—and because it was morning, most of these were closed. We walked into the one diner that was open but there was no staff to be found. They were in the back huddling around a small, old black and white television watching the final game of the Chicago Bulls–Utah Jazz NBA Championship Finals; Michael Jordan was universally worshipped.



In a moment of solidarity, two white guys and a family of Indonesians agonized as the Bulls faced a late deficit and cheered as Jordan led them to a one-point win and the championship. The eight of us yelled and hugged in a moment of global solidarity, bonded by an exhilarating moment and united by a shared icon.

At this moment, the real question was, “who is *not* our neighbor?”

May 27 is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Our understanding of the Holy Trinity introduces us to the Catholic principle of solidarity. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reminds us that “everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity” (240).

Yes, we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, but more than an obligation, it is an invitation to solidarity and compassionate living with our neighbors.

Solidarity is about living in unity with each other. One cannot be in solidarity alone.

Solidarity is about living as equals with each other. One cannot be in solidarity with another while being “better” than him or her.

Solidarity is about remaining unified while acknowledging our diversity and appreciating it.

In today’s gospel, Jesus said to his disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The Father, Son and Holy Spirit existed, not separately, but interdependent with each other. In unity despite their diversity.

Thomas Merton wrote that, “The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.”

For one hour on a June day in the back of an Indonesian diner, I was keenly aware of our shared connections.

(Readings for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity)