

Fr. John Sassani
Homily Given on June 7, 2009
The Most Holy Trinity
Liturgical Year B

When I was seven years old, my aunt took me to New Hampshire, and we climbed Mt. Monadnock. I remember that it was a beautiful fall day, it was very cold at the top of the mountain, and the view was breathtaking. A few years ago, I traveled through Germany and Austria. One of the places we visited was the Eagle's Nest, perched on the top of a mountain in Austria. The view from there was one of incredible beauty and majesty.

It seems that Jesus was drawn to the higher altitudes as well. The third temptation in the desert was at the top of a very high mountain where He could see all the kingdoms of the world. To preach the Beatitudes and the rest of that sermon, Jesus went up on a mountain. On another occasion, He took Peter, James and John and led them up another high mountain where the Transfiguration took place. And after His Resurrection, He directed the disciples to a mountain in Galilee, where He met them and commissioned them to preach and baptize.

The commission to the disciples gives us a vantage point on the divine life...on the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...on God's love. God was and is and always will be Love. God's love is not a feeling, not just an idea. It is a relationship, a relationship that existed before creation. We believe in the Trinity, but informally we assume that God the Father was around until 2,000 years ago, when Jesus and the Spirit showed up. But if God is love, then it was as true before creation as after, before salvation as after. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the Father loving the Son – the Son is loving the Father – and the love between them that is the Holy Spirit.

This mystery is patterned into us. We are created in the image and likeness of God. We were made by Love for love. We live in a network of relationships. Often our faith is very personal and individual, but, in our relationships, we are fashioned in the image and likeness of the Blessed Trinity. We see these relationships forming and developing in the ARISE faith-sharing groups, and with the neighbors and fellow parishioners we have known for years.

The life and love of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – draws us, impels us toward being a community of loving, vital relationships. In these relationships we become salt and leaven for the world. The Eucharist gives us the experience of being one in our individuality and diversity. In the Eucharist, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Son comes among us, to help us know, love, and serve God, and to know, love and serve one another. As we come to the Eucharist today, let's ask the Lord to help us live that way for the well-being of the world.