

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
May 16, 2019

Readings:

Proverbs 8:22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Fr. Bob

The names Christians give to God—Father, Son and Spirit—are both ancient and important. But we should never think they exhaust the possibilities of God's reality. Creator, mother, lover, redeemer, Savior, higher power, or friend all go some way to help us put words around our experience of our God, who is more and beyond all names we can possibly use.

The naming of God, however, is an important, but secondary focus to today's feast. There are two other facets to it that are more central. The first is that the Trinity declares that relationships are at the very center of God. We believe that the Father, Son, and Spirit are in full communion, communication, and relationship with each other at all times, in all places. To know Jesus is to know the Father and the Spirit and vice versa. They are one. This special relationship also indicates to us that nothing should matter more in our lives than our relationships with one another. To be like the God we profess every Sunday is to commit ourselves to our relationships, in all their varieties. To work hard on our relationships is, for a Christian, to touch the divine.

The second extraordinary thing we celebrate today is that the Father invites us into this loving relationship with Him, Jesus, and the Spirit. What is especially consoling about this is that we are the only world religion that believes our God took our flesh. So

through Jesus' life, teaching, compassion, and sacrificial love we not only discover who he is, but, at one and the same time, we find out what God and the Spirit are like.

Some people think themselves unworthy of such invitation. Others argue they have to be a better person to deserve such an offer. While both of these responses to God's invitation are understandable, they fail to take into account that in Jesus we have been made worthy of God's love and if we are waiting to get to a certain level of goodness to deserve God's love, we will wait forever.

God invites us into the compassionate embrace of the Trinity where we are and as we are, so that we can become all that God knows we can be. We all have our images of God and what God looks like. Some are fearful...actually...many are. But that is not the God that the Church proclaims.

It's shown in the scriptures, and in our history, the God we celebrate today on this feast. God is not removed, stuck in the heavens. He is not aloof. He is not waiting to send us away from him.

On this Trinity Sunday let's celebrate the intimacy and dignity to which we are called by signing ourselves with the focus of our love—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

