

Homily for Sunday Mass  
The Most Holy Trinity Sunday  
June 28, 2020  
Year A – Matthew 10:37-42  
----Father Michael Grant George Cadotte----

Many look to liberal thought as a diminishment of faith in our society but when reflecting on today's readings I cannot help but believe this logic is in error. Some look to the middle of the last century as a golden age of faith and good and hold up the vast social changes that came in the 60s and 70s as the reason for a perceived erosion of that. Sure, society was more church going then but when we look at the abuses of minorities, women, the environment I am not so sure it was ever such a golden age – we were like children blinded to the world around us. Remember Paul's words on love in speaking to Corinth, "...when I was a child I...thought as a child, reasoned like a child, when I became [an adult] I put aside childish things..." (I Cor 13:11). So, too did our society put aside, or began to / attempted to, our foolish and childish ways of yester-year and advance in our love of each other in how we see, talk, and behave around each other. That forward march of good is seeing a new revival in our society again right now. Around the same time, however, another shift began, that of capitalistic greed at a scale that has never been seen. It shed off all thought of human value, personal responsibility, or the common good. The 1987 movie "Wall Street" summed it all up in the words of the character Gordon Gekko (played by Michael Douglas) when he said, "Greed...is good [and it] captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit." Well, there is only one Spirit I can think of that captures my heart and it isn't greed.

When we started to think of ourselves first and foremost we began to shed our baptismal covenant with God where we died from sin and were raised up with Christ as children of God – believers in the faith and in the words and teachings of Jesus Christ. Those words, mind you, are *the* Word of God. Not some nice things about loving God, yourselves, and all people but actual

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desires of God to each of us. When we started to replace that love of the common good with love of money, we began to peel off the armor of Christ and the devil flowed right on in. As time marched on we grew these greed to encompass more than just personal wealth and the shedding of our call by God to love for the accumulation, or attempt thereof, of wealth, but we grew this sinful thought process to include anything that makes me happy. Any thing that makes me look good, feel good, gain likes on social media, and any other modern mean that brings attention to our ever-growing egotistical needs for attention and validation. Is not the attention and love of God enough? Greed for money, fame, attention, and even the doing of good deeds for the primary benefit of being *seen* doing them, that my friends is what brings us to a society today that so often looks at our faith values as strange, silly, and weak. It is what holds us back and continues to allow the abuses of others that we see almost daily in the news. But remember the Beatitudes of Jesus and his teaching of blessings upon the poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the clean of heart, the merciful, and the peacemakers for theirs is the kingdom of God! (MT 5:3-10)

When we look to our first reading, we can see this extreme hospitality at work in offering safety and comfort to the stranger and in our Gospel reading we mature in that thought. At first it can read as harsh to love our parents and family less but what Jesus is really saying here is to put all our love in his Word and live it without edit or error with unconditional love of our living God. Now, when we do this we also extend, by virtue of following the Word, our love to all others and thus we come right back to loving not only those close to us, like family, but we have expanded our love to all people, animals, and all of God's creation. We begin to learn that in

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service and love of these others we find God, we find peace, and we succeed at living God's Word and we find our own salvation. For, "...whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple – amen I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward" (MT10:42).

So, what does this all mean for us living in today's crazy and messed up world? It means that we have to do more, love more, live for Jesus more and not give up on all the good that you have to offer just because some think it silly, weak, or threatening to their way of life. This resistance can come from family and loved ones as was the warning Jesus was giving the disciples as he prepared them to go out in spread the Word, so be prepared and lean on Jesus to help give you the strength God has already given you to do the right and live those beatitudes in all that you do.

Some time ago, a parish couple was walking their dog Bella (or Bella was more likely walking them) past my house and they stopped to say hello. Now Bella was, oh how do we describe not so little Bella? She had the energy of two nuclear reactors – that may not fully sum up the pooch, but I think you get the idea. So, on Bella's first visit I gave her a large dog biscuit which was gone less than 5 seconds after it hit the ground. Now Bella walks her humans past my house on a regular basis and she gets really excited to visit the biscuit-human and I am told she even refused to continue on when I am not home in the hopes that I am just a bit slow that day. I even carry biscuits in my car when I visit homes that contain a Bella too, and I must say that I may find a more loving welcome from the four-legged residence than I do those that I love to whom I am visiting. So, if the simple act of giving a treat to a dog can bring such obvious love

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and excitement, just think what a small gesture of love from you to an unsuspecting person can bring. I encourage each of you, wherever you are, to make that a goal for this week. To do something loving for another without any reward or benefit to yourself. And, if you find the experience fruitful as I suspect you will, then do it again and again. Before you know it you will have taken another step in your faith development as you will be wondering this world of life looking to spread love and joy to others and THAT is what Jesus is asking us to do. Love yourself and love your neighbors...and yes, Bella too. AMEN

---Citations---

The New American Bible: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010

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