

The Eternal Flow

Trinity Sunday

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In a world driven by greed, it is hard to give things away. For some reason, we live under the impression that life is a competition and that we need to aggressively accumulate and hoard as much as possible; whether it's material goods, pleasures, experiences, wealth, or even grace. We somehow think that if we miss out, someone else will win at our expense. So, we try to take and get as much as we can out of life.

To be clear, this is not the life to which a Christian is called. Greed, in fact, is one of the deadly sins. It is deadly because it kills and is incompatible with Christianity.

This weekend, we celebrate Trinity Sunday. We honor the Trinity in every prayer we make, but this feast gives us a chance to consider more explicitly who our God really is. The Trinity refers to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This Trinity existed from before the beginning of time, as *Proverbs* suggests to us in the First Reading, and will exist for all eternity.

While this Triune God is clouded in mystery (how can God be one and three??), the doctrine of the Trinity profoundly shows us the exact opposite of greed. In God, for all eternity, everything is handed on, given away, and shared between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Nothing is hoarded, accumulated, or withheld out of self-interest by any of them. As written in the Gospel of *John*, Jesus says, "everything that the Father has is mine" and also "[The Holy Spirit] will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears." Both of these lines tell us that there is a flow in

God. Everything the Father has he gives to the Son and everything the Son has he gives to the Holy Spirit. Everything is freely and gladly passed on to the next divine person and none of them claim exclusive ownership over anything.

All this sounds good, but what does this have to do with us? Actually, a lot. This flow in God, from the Father, to the Son, to the Holy Spirit eventually reaches us. Jesus says, “For this reason I told you that [the Father] will take from what is mine and declare it to you” and “[The Holy Spirit] will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” In other words, we become part of the flow ourselves. All God has becomes ours.

The doctrine of the Trinity is a doctrine about passing on.

Now comes the challenge. Just as the Father has passed everything on to the Son and the Son to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit to all of us, so too, we must pass it on to other people, especially to the next generation. Anytime we give into greed, we stop the flow.

What is it that I need to pass on?

This weekend incidentally is also Father’s Day. Perhaps our own fathers, like God the Father, have been great examples of this as they worked long and hard to raise a family and pass on everything they have to their children.

As we continue with this mass, let us see ourselves within the flow of the eternal love originating in God the Father. Like St. Paul, may we say, “the love of God has been poured out into our hearts” and then make it our mission to pour that love into other people’s hearts so that they too may experience the eternal flow.