

## Holy Trinity - 2019

Many of you may recall the Sunday a couple of years ago when I celebrated my 25th anniversary. For me, it was such a great day for many reasons, but one of the most important ones was the fact that all my brothers and sisters were able to be here to celebrate it with me.

It's hard to get all nine of us in the same place at once, but we did that day and we even have the picture to prove it.

For those of you were present you may also recall that I asked my siblings to come up to the altar at the end of Mass. I wanted you all to see them and to see a part of me, I guess, that's essential to who I am and what I am about. It was important for me to share that with you.

I don't think that's uncommon. It happens in many relationships. The relationship grows to a point where those participating in it want to share more of themselves, want to be known more deeply, and are inviting the relationship to deepen and grow.

Can you think of the people in your life who have shared with you such a moment?

In today's Gospel Jesus acknowledges that he has more to share with his disciples, but they (we) are not ready for it yet. That's always the case. There is always more of the truth of life to be revealed.

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But more I reflect on Jesus' words, the more convinced I become that, among the major truths that Jesus wants to share with us is the fact that he is in this life-giving and love-surrounding relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, the member of the Holy Trinity who is also the Word of God made flesh never seems to be satisfied with people entering into a relationship with Him alone. He has a larger plan in mind: that we would be invited by him into the fullness of life and love he shares with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Especially in the Western Church that can get lost from view. It can appear by the way we speak about God or the way our prayers are formulated that we think that as long as we have Jesus, we really don't need any more than that.

There is truth to that, which is why many people stop there. Jesus incarnates the love of God and makes clear to us what God calls us to. Being in a solid relationship with Jesus will never steer us wrong.

But what if it's true that Jesus wants nothing more than to bring us into the same kind of relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit? How do we react to that?

I can't imagine any of us thinking it would be charitable, or even polite, to decline the offer, to say to Jesus, "No thanks. I'm not really interested in all that. It seems too complicated to me."

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It seems to me that that attitude would put a damper on the whole relationship.

If we accept the invitation, though, a divine world opens up to us. By welcoming God as God really is into our lives, we have the opportunity to participate in God's life in its many-faceted dimensions. When we seek to deepen our relationship with God, the Father, for example, we have access to the fact that we are brother and sister to all of creation (thank you St. Francis, for point that out.) Then, care for creation can find its rightful place in our whole spiritual life. It becomes integral to it.

When we seek to deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit it becomes much harder to hold on to the idea that the Holy Spirit is only operative within the Church. We see his enlivening action all over the place and we see how we can join with others outside the Church in promoting the common good.

The Spirit blows where it wills, as St. Paul put in. Remembering that helps to keep us from putting up artificial and needless barriers to the good work that others are doing. We can join them!

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is not an annual exercise in mental gymnastics. It's a reminder to stay open to all the truth that Jesus wants to share with us, especially and most importantly, that the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—have made room for us in the very life and love they have for one another.