

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The readings talk to us about our spiritual lives. In the second reading, St Paul reminds us we need to have an attitude of thankfulness to the Trinity for Their patience and loving mercy towards us. Through Their gift of redemption, we have the ability to call the first person of the Trinity, Father. In the gospel, we see a faith filled response to the Trinity's gift of redemption. The shepherds didn't dilly dally in their response to the announcement of the beginning of their and our redemption but hurried to go and give their and our Lord and Savior the homage He was due. Afterwards, they changed their way of living to include proclaiming this event through their lives. Mary in the gospel passage gives us the example of how to nurture our spiritual lives; how to nurture and deepen our relationship with Jesus and the other members of the Trinity when the gospel states she "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." She allowed the Trinity, especially her Son, to speak to her in her heart. Do we cultivate a spirit of openness, docility, in our hearts and minds so we can hear the Trinity speaking to us; so as to have a deeper more intimate relationship with Them? Do we ask Them for the graces we need to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of God so as to grow in intimacy with the Trinity by being docile and obedient to Their truth and will?

We need the Trinity's graces to strengthen Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, and Knowledge so we can hear, understand and follow the Trinity's will for us, through prayer and studying Sacred Scripture and the Church's teachings, in order to grow in intimacy with the Trinity. We also need the Trinity's graces to strengthen Piety and Fear of the Lord, so we can give the Trinity the homage, the worship, the praise and adoration, They deserve as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier in order to grow in intimacy with the Trinity.

During the short meditation time after the homily, will we silently ask for the Trinity's graces to strengthen the Holy Spirit's Gifts in us, so we can purify our souls of those secular, worldly ideas and activities, in order to become more obedient and docile to the Trinity' will and way, so we can grow into a more intimate familial relationship with the Trinity?

While we are waiting to receive our Lord & Savior at communion, will we spend a moment or two, silently asking that the Trinity's graces strengthen the Holy Spirit's gifts in us, so we can purify our souls of those secular, worldly ideas and activities, which corrupt our souls, in order to give the Trinity the homage, the worship They deserve, which strengthens our familial bond with the Trinity; or will our heart, mind and will be thinking about the other activities and things we are planning to do?

After we have consumed our Lord and Savior, we are given quiet time for prayer and meditation the Trinity desire us to have, so as to be completely open to the graces we have received, in order to have our souls become more intimately united with the Trinity. Listen to this portion of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM para 45), which directs when we are to have time to quietly pray and meditate during the Mass:

"Sacred silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration. For in the Penitential Act and again after the invitation to pray, individuals recollect themselves; whereas after a reading or after the Homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him."

During the quiet meditation time given us right after communion, will we spend some of that time in prayerful contrition and repentance for our sins, in order to be completely open to the Trinity's graces we have received, so our souls can remain docile and obedient to the Trinity's truth and will for us, so

as to grow in intimacy with the Trinity? Or will our heart, mind, and will be spending that time desiring and thinking of secular activities and things?

After the Mass, and during the week, will we try to find some time to pray to the Trinity for the graces we need to strengthen the Holy Spirit's gifts in us, so we can continue to purify our souls of those secular, worldly ideas and activities which corrupt our souls, so our souls can remain docile, obedient to the Trinity's truth and will for us, enabling us to continue to grow, in our ability to be more intimate loving adopted daughters and sons of the Father; to be more intimate loving adopted brothers and sisters of Christ?

Will we also make use of the sacrament of Confession, so as to receive the graces we need, to further strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in order to grow in our ability to continue to find and avoid those influences, situations, and actions, which lead us to sin, so as to grow in our ability to become more intimate loving adopted daughters and sons of the Father; to become more intimate loving adopted brothers and sisters of Christ.

Before we continue on with the Mass, let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit now, and especially when we consume our Lord in the Eucharist; so we can be open to the Trinity's graces; in order to reject secular culture's values, ideas, and approach to life; so as to become more intimate, loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.