

2nd Sunday of Lent

The first reading calls us to reflect on trusting the Trinity no matter how hard it seems. In the first reading we see Abraham trusting in God's faithfulness and goodness even though he is asked to make the ultimate sacrifice, offer his only child to God. In the part which is not included, we would have seen Abraham express this unconditional and complete trust in God when he responds to Isaac's question: "Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. 'Father!' he said. 'Here I am,' he replied. Isaac continued, 'Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?' 'My son,' Abraham answered, 'God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering.' Then the two walked on together." We continue to see the trust and faith both Isaac has in his father, and Abraham's faith and trust in God in the following excerpt: "When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he bound his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son." For us today, how would we respond to a similar request in our lives? How deep and strong is our faith in the Trinity's will and ways for our lives? For us to grow in our ability to trust the Trinity in all aspects of our lives, do we work on opening our hearts and minds to the Trinity's graces so as to strengthen the virtue of Faith? Do we work on opening our hearts and minds to the Trinity's graces so as to get rid of those secular, cultural influences which cause us to doubt, to reject the Trinity's truths, will and ways in our lives; to work on getting rid of those secular/cultural values and ideas which weaken the Theological virtues, especially Faith?

Right after the homily, we need to pray for the Trinity's graces to strengthen the Theological virtues, especially Faith, so as to reject those secular, cultural influences which cause us to doubt, to reject the Trinity's truths, will and ways in our lives in order to follow Christ's example of docility and obedience to the Father's will.

While we are waiting to receive our Lord & Savior at communion, we should spend a moment or two, asking the Trinity for the graces we need to strengthen the Theological virtues, especially Faith, so as to reject those secular, cultural influences which cause us to doubt, to reject the Trinity's truths, will and ways in our lives in order to more faithfully follow Christ's example of sacrificial love.

During the quiet meditation time which we have right after communion, we need to spend that time praising the Trinity, and, also asking the Trinity for the graces we need, to strengthen the Theological virtues, especially Faith, so as to continue to work on rejecting those secular, cultural values and ideas which cause us to doubt, to reject the Trinity's truths, will and way in our lives in order to continue to grow in our ability to more faithfully follow Christ's example of docility and obedience to the Father's will.

After the Mass, and during the week, we need to make time to ask the Trinity for the graces we require, to strengthen the Theological virtues, especially Faith, so as to continue to work on rejecting those secular, cultural values and ideas which cause us to doubt, to reject the Trinity's truths, will and way so as to have lives which more faithfully follow Christ's example of sacrificial love.

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; so as to strengthen the Theological virtues, especially Faith; in order to become more docile, obedient and loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.