

Fr. Curtis Miller

June 6-7, 2020

Homily for Trinity Sunday

Welcome back! It's good to see you here and to be able to pray with you again in-person at Mass. We know that not everyone is able to return to Mass yet, but we remain united with them in prayer.

At the beginning of this pandemic and the stay at home order, I was reading a book ironically titled *Life Together*. It's a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian and martyr who resisted the Nazis. Bonhoeffer reflects on how living together in a community of faith is an essential part of our lives as Christians. It's not good for us to live alone. We're more susceptible to becoming self-absorbed or falling to temptation. The very word "Church," "ecclesia," means a "gathering" or an "assembly." It means that coming together is essential to who we are as Christians. We come together to pray and worship God, to support each other, to share our struggles and insights.

Yet, as Bonhoeffer observes in his book, this community can easily become an idol, distracting us from the primary focus we ought to have on God. Each of us needs to be capable of praying to God on our own, otherwise we won't have anything to offer when we come together in Church. If not, when we do come together, we will be looking more for socialization or entertainment than for authentic union with God. It's only when we're first striving for union with God that we can have a better communion with other people, especially with our fellow Christians.

Maybe we had a chance to practice deepening our personal relationship with God during this time of isolation. If not, we can always keep working on it. In fact, it's a lifelong journey to grow closer to God.

Why is this? Because God Himself is the perfect model of communion. As we're reminded on Trinity Sunday, we believe in one God, Who is a communion of three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a very deep mystery this is difficult for our minds to grasp, even in its most basic form, but it's essential to our faith.

This belief reminds us that God is greater than we are, that His ways are mysterious and as high above our ways as the heavens are above the earth. Our minds are limited, but God is infinite. This is not to say that we have to abandon reason and rationality to believe in God. Not at all, because the Trinity does make sense; it just requires that we stretch our minds beyond what we would have been able to figure out on our own, to embrace what God reveals of Himself to us.

God humbles Himself in revealing to us the inner mysteries of His identity. Why does God do this? Because He wants to have a relationship with us. It's impossible to have a relationship with someone we don't know. And it's a two-way street. Thus, if God has revealed Himself to us, then we must reveal ourselves to God—our deepest

longings, our truest selves, with all of our hopes, fears, weaknesses, and dreams—otherwise our relationship with God will only remain at the surface level, unable to bring healing and peace to the depths of our souls. Now it's important to note that God doesn't need us to reveal ourselves to Him. He already knows everything about us. God actually knows us better than we know ourselves. However, He doesn't intervene unless we first invite Him into our lives. The more we open ourselves up to God, the more He will help us to know ourselves. In the light of God, we're able to discover things about ourselves that we never knew.

God is Trinity, a unity among diversity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each distinct and unique, yet each and all are God, equally and coeternally. May God, by revealing Himself to us, help us to show ourselves to Him, so that we in turn might show ourselves to each other. Here's an important lesson: we can help bring healing, justice, and peace to our troubled society when we start opening ourselves to each other, listening to each other, feeling each other's pain, carrying each other's burdens, and walking side by side. In the light of God, we can recognize each other as fellow beloved daughters and sons of our heavenly Father. By gazing upon God, by contemplating the Trinity, the reflected light of God upon our souls will help us to be a stronger and a better community, both in the Church, and society at large, which today is in such need of the presence of God. Rather than hating or labeling each other, we will grow into that unified family of God's children, united by God's love.