

Homily for the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity (Year B)

Deut 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Matt 28:16-20

Theme: God's love and unity!

There was story about a man who was suspected of being out of his mind, climbed a tree. Many were worried about this. So, they shouted at him to go down from the tree but he did not. They called 911 and the police tried to convince him to come down but he was not convinced. Finally, they called the old parish priest of that place.

The old parish priest went to the place and they asked him to make a blessing if in case he will fall down and die. The priest made the Sign of the Cross and prayed silently. After a while the man went down from the tree and the people were surprised why it happened that way.

They asked the priest why he was able to convince the man to come down by making the Sign of the Cross. The priest told them that he just prayed. They asked the man why he could not be convinced by the other people. He said “ I thought the sign made by the priest meant that if I don't come down, the tree will be cut down.

The celebration of the most Holy Trinity is key to our faith and is a mystery; $1+1+1=1$ not 3. The trinity is also our identity, that is why our prayers and liturgies are decorated with it. Perhaps these analogies will offer us an insight into this doctrine of the Trinity which still remains a mystery.

St. Patrick, the missionary patron saint of Ireland, used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. The story goes that one day his friends asked Patrick to explain the Mystery of the Trinity. He looked at the ground and saw shamrocks growing amid the grass at his feet. He picked one up one of its trifoliate leaves and asked if it were one leaf or three. Patrick's friends couldn't answer – the shamrock leaf looked like one but it clearly had three parts. Patrick explained to them: “The mystery of the Holy Trinity – one God in Three Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – is like this, but more complex and unintelligible.”

St. Cyril, tried to explain the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity using the sun as an example. He said, “**God the Father is that blazing sun. God the Son is its light and God the Holy Spirit is its heat** — but there is only one sun.

Augustine wrote: “You see the Trinity, if you see love.” According to him, the Father is the lover, the Son is the loved one and the Holy Spirit is the personification of the very act of loving

In today's the gospel, Christ himself revealed the mystery of the three divine persons to us. He revealed this with a mandate: “*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.*”

Jesus commands us to be baptized in the name, singular, of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not in the names, plural for there is only one God, the almighty Father, his only Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity.

Today, the church reminds us that the three divine persons are not divided in their actions of grace. Instead, they work and walk together. They have the same mission, which is, the salvation of the world. The Father sent the Son to redeem the world (Jn 1, 1-3). And the Father and the Son sent us the Holy Spirit as our Counselor and Advocate (Act 1, 8. 2). None of them have absolute dominance of a particular period or time. This is because, in spite of being three distinct persons, they have one essence. They are eternally one and united.

So, the prayer of Christ to the father: “*May they be one, as we are One*” (Jn 17:22), is a prayer that arises from Trinitarian love. Therefore, the whole church, and each family that forms the universal Church is the sacrament of the Trinity, and as such must be characterized by love and unity.

Therefore, what we celebrate today is a model for our unity. We have many lessons to learn from the Holy Trinity.

The most important is that, like the Holy Trinity, we can live and work together as one family of God. This is because, we bear one and the same image of God, and were baptized by the same Spirit of God whose mark we bear (Eph 4, 30). So, in spite of our individual personalities and differences unity is possible and a fundamental option.

Let us remember our identity always and may we be reminded that if we remain united, our different personalities would become our strength, rather than our weakness. For their love and unity, let us praise the Most Holy Trinity: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen.*