

Homily - Trinity Sunday A 2020

What better way to begin a homily than to say: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”* A greeting that says it all. This collaboration of intense love is the greatest of gifts to us!!

Ronald Rolheiser asks: *How do we understand the trinity?*

We don't! He says.

God, by definition, is ineffable, beyond conceptualization, beyond imagination, beyond language. The Christian belief that God is a trinity helps underscore the richness of the mystery of God and how our experience of God is always richer than our concepts and language about God.

Since it is love that binds the Trinity together that is the subject of our reflection today: THE LOVE OF GOD! **How do we experience this great love of God?** Certainly, in too many ways

to be included here! Therefore, let's pause and reflect on the heart. It is shaped like a triangle with rounded corners - nothing sharp, pointed or jarring. Each of the three corners is in contact with the other two. The Spirit is often known as the expression of the love between the Father and the Son, Jesus. Whether we pray to Jesus, the Father or the Spirit, the love we receive comes from all three; it is impossible to be loved by one of the persons and not be loved by the other two. So, we receive a triple helping of love in response to any love we offer. **Pure Gold** is marked 24 Karat (99.99% pure). The purer the Gold the more malleable it is, like love. God, therefore, gives us 72 Karat love!!!

Precious jewellery is meant to be displayed for its beauty although it is often locked away to prevent it being stolen. We display the love of God in our acts of charity, support, help and self-giving to others. This love is of no value if it is locked away. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Father sent his Son to us.

For many centuries our theology of God has been incarnational helped by the profound reasoning of Thomas Aquinas. We have learnt how everything fits together with God at the centre and everywhere in between. In earlier times Creational theology was much more evident. This is a theology that focuses more on the Spirit of God flowing through all things; a flowing energy that has no beginning and no end – as shown in Celtic designs - but whose source is Divine. It places a special emphasis on creation as the other hand written bible of God. Maybe this is why we think of the Holy Spirit in terms of a dove, wind and fire?? This flow of energy, of God's life and power, is continual, and, it is forever. Creational theology does not seek so much to understand things and how they fit logically together but seeks to incorporate them somehow into the whole flow of life and into the flow of God through life. This allows an understanding and significance to surface in its own way and in its own time. Some will call this flow **grace**, others will call it **love**, but it has many other names, all valid, all incomplete, all adding to its richness. This theology understands mystery not as something to be understood or explained even if that might help. For mystery is the aura, wonder and charisma that flows in and around everything that God has created; it radiates the divine presence. Today we are reminded that we are all caught up in this mystery, into the flow of God's love in all its many guises - in people, in nature and creation, in experiences, in joys and sufferings, in successes and failures. It is a richness beyond imagining, and that doesn't matter either because we are fully part of it, and, with the Trinity, we celebrate together this richness of love, of life and of joy. Today we allow the love of

the Trinity to flow in us, around us, and through us. We breathe it in. We breathe it out. We breathe the LOVE of the Father, Son and Spirit!!!

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.

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And finally

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical.

After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired. Many years later the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multimillion pound machines. They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated, "This is where your problem is." The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for £50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized account of his charges. The engineer responded

briefly:

"One chalk mark £1. Knowing where to put it £49,999.00"