

Trinity Sunday 2017

Yesterday I celebrated a funeral for a woman who used to come to SFX when her husband was a medical resident at St Vincent's. She would come with her young son and it was he who decided that her funeral should be here since the church reminded her of one she would visit in her Italy, her home. When I thought about this family of three, Husband wife and son, I was thinking of how their relationships were like those of the Most Holy Trinity, the feast we celebrate today. So as I saw father and son sitting in the first pew I told them that although their wife/mother was no longer physically present, her spirit was certainly present. They had both told me how "spiritual" she was, not just in a religious sense but in a way that made everything an adventure for her son. Here was a bond of father, son and spirit that reminded me of the unbreakable bond of love in God.

It's not easy to talk "about" the Trinity since we can reduce the mystery of God to concepts "about" God. We use words, Father, Son and Spirit but do they really capture the essence of God who is for us, with us and within us? That's what Richard Rohr talks about in his book "The Divine Dance: The Trinity and your transformation". God whom we call Father is For us: God whom we call son is "with us" sharing our humanity and the Spirit is God Within us.

But here's the really hard part. Unlike the family of three persons Stanley/Christina/Alessandro who are three distinct individuals, God is ONE. When we use the term "persons" in God, it's not the same as a human person who is unique and distinct, one from the other. God is ONE and in the ONE is Three ways of Being.

So don't lose sleep over this. Just think of who God is for you and when God is For You, With You and Within You you will be living in God and God in You.

(my homily was very brief since we had a presentation by Sr. Theresa of the Lover of the Holy Cross Sisters, a Vietnamese congregation) So I've attached Sr Katie Aucoin's homiletic reflection on the Trinity

Sr. Katie Aucoin s.c.

Theme: Mystery—a dance in the darkness—a call to Relational Living with God and one another.

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For many relating to the Mystery of the Holy Trinity is about comprehensible as relating to the Triune God. Many relate to God as One God and One Person; Karl Rahner, one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century, wrote of the Holy Spirit as the “*forgotten God*” since most of our personal prayer and Liturgical prayer is addressed to the Creator and/or the Redeemer—while the Spirit, sent to be with us always, is an afterthought; put in prayers at the tail end like our own Gloria in the Liturgy and the Apostles’ Creed which are perfect examples; the Spirit is given a cameo appearance. Looks like everyone is having trouble with *Mystery!*

But the mystery we encounter today in Holy Trinity Sunday is not something to be understood, figured out, or just “believed in”. We are called, almost entreated to allow ourselves to experience this Lord who is merciful, gracious, concerned, kind, forgiving, compassionate, life-giving. We are invited into mystery every waking day—Creation wakes us with Sunrise, the sweet song of cardinal, and all our winged brethren inviting us to continue our journey through Mystery:

The birth of a child which engenders in us such tenderness, such love that we find
ourselves lost in its intermittent coo’s and smiles;
--the untimely death of one who is dearly loved leaving us feeling
gutted, empty, feeling raw,
confused, and lost;
--hearing the words “I love you” coming from the lips of the one asking to share a
lifetime with you,

--a friend who can be trusted with your hopes and dreams and anxieties, seeing
you

through failings, allowing you to “do overs”, and loving you for just you.
These are mysteries to be kept and pondered our hearts. What are you saying to me, O God, what
are telling me, what lesson am I to learn, speak, Lord, here I am waiting for you.

Religious song-writer, Carey Landry reminds us that in life we are called to ‘*dance in the
darkness, slow be the pace; surrender to the rhythm of redeeming grace*’. We cannot run through
Mystery; it refuses to give up its treasures to ‘the rat race’ or heartless inquiry. Although we
sometimes receive insights and “aha!” moments during our busy day, they are but enticing whispers
of the Divine luring us to take more time and be still. Sit, breathe, and allow Mystery to reveal itself
slowly and in its own time—as in the pattern of love. When we intentionally open ourselves to the
Mystery of God we will moved into the darkness and depths; we will not stumble or fall, as we
surrender to the rhythm of relationship, of redeeming grace, of growing deeper in trustful living.

*“These things I do for them: I will lead the blind on their journey
by paths unknown I will lead them, I will turn darkness into light
before them and make crooked ways straight.*

And I will not forsake them.” 1s 42:15