

Trinity Sunday - A
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9;
II Corinthians 13:11-13;
John 3:16-18
Little Flower - 6/11/17

My Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Trinity. We celebrate our faith in three Persons in one God. Today's second reading contains the final verses of Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. Scripture scholars and theologians see Paul's words as one of the most explicit expressions of Trinitarian faith in the New Testament: "*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*" Paradoxically, his concluding blessing of the Corinthians is the greeting with which we begin most of our Liturgies.

The heart of Old Testament revelation is that God is one and person. The heart of New Testament revelation is that there are three Persons in one God. The Preface for today in the former Sacramentary captures our Trinitarian faith: "You revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three Persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory."

In today's first reading, God described himself as "*a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.*" Jesus, of course, is God's greatest gift of love. As Jesus said, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...*" Fr. Rene Latourelle cites this verse to argue that God not only loves us, but he loves us superabundantly. He loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. Elsewhere, Paul would write, "*But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us*" [5:8]. Jesus, then, is the grace or gift of God. His death and resurrection enable us to die to selfishness and sin and to rise to new life in Christ.

As we heard last week, "*in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..., and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.*" In other words, our communion with one another is grounded in the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote to the Romans, "*the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us*" [5:5]. However, although we are in communion with one another because of the Holy Spirit living within us, today's second reading reminds us that we have responsibility for building up the community, including our families.

First, Paul tells us to rejoice. To rejoice, we need to allow ourselves to be happy, and we need to be grateful. Second, Paul encourages us to mend our ways. In our communities and families, we tend to notice the faults of others more than our own. Paul reminds to focus on our own faults and work to change those. Paul also encourages us to agree with one another. It is okay to disagree as long as we do not become disagreeable. However, a lot of disagreements within families and communities could be resolved if we would communicate better. Likewise, we are encouraged to live in peace with one another. We all need to work at identifying what binds us together rather than what separates or divides us. Finally, he tells the Corinthians to greet one another with a holy kiss. I would suggest Paul is calling us to treat each other with respect and reverence.

My brothers and sisters, marriage, family, and church are all about love—God's love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for us and our love for one another.