

Trinity Sunday - C
Proverbs 8:22-31;
Romans 5:1-5;
John 16:12-15
Little Flower - 6/16/19

My Brothers and Sisters,

The parish staff and I want to wish all fathers a happy and blessed Father's Day.

Once again, thank you to all who worked so hard to make Summerfest 2019 a success. I really cannot thank you enough. Today's bulletin contains Angie's preliminary report. We will net approximately \$65,000, which represents a tremendous accomplishment. Also, God certainly blessed us with wonderful weather. The report does note a couple of concerns. We hope to address these next spring as Summerfest 2020 draws near.

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday. We celebrate our belief in three persons in one God. Homilies today often reflect on what today's feast reveals to us about God. Today I would like to reflect on what today's feast reveals to us about ourselves.

If we look at our families, we often see a lack of balance. In some families, members of the family are too separate from each other. In other families, the lives of everyone are enmeshed. The mystery of the Trinity suggests balance. Three persons in one God implies perfect unity yet complete distinction of persons.

If we are honest and look at our relationships honestly, we see so much of our parents within us, within the way we relate to others, especially to our husbands or wives and to our parents and children. Some of what we see is good; some of what we see may not be so good. Our parents after all were not perfect, but neither are we.

Jesus tells us that God is both his Father and our Father. Our vocation, then, is to live as his sons and daughters and as brothers and sisters of one another. Practically this means we are called to learn to relate to each other as God relates to us. We are called to make the qualities of God in relating to us our own qualities in relating to others: forgiveness, respect, mutual love, and, above all, compassion. In other words, we can take the best of what we learned from our parents and change what was less good by modeling our relationships, especially with our husbands or wives and parents or children, on God's relationship with us.

In the first reading, the Wisdom of God speaks: "*I was his delight day by day, Playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of the earth.*" If God's Word and Wisdom plays, playing must be part of life and part of religion. Life that is all work and no play is not life!

Today it seems that everyone is so busy that no one has time to play. Books like *The Hurried Child* and *All Grown Up and No Place to Go* suggest that we do not allow young people, both children and adolescents, the time to be young, the time to play. For example, children have to read before they go to school. Adolescents have to excel in every area during high school in order to go to the college of their choice. Workaholism in adults is as much a disease as alcoholism. As a result, a lot of us do not know how to play, and a lot of us are not able to enjoy play. We can carry this reflection one step farther. Religion, even worship, that becomes all work and no play is not religion or worship.

Finally, St. Paul reminds us that the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love, Love personified. A love so powerful, so forceful, that it is its own Person challenges us to understand the power of love to change lives, to change situations.

My brothers and sisters, as we celebrate Trinity Sunday, we celebrate not only the mystery of God but also the mystery of ourselves created in the image and likeness of God. We are God's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters of Jesus and one another, in the Holy Spirit.