

Holy Trinity Sunday (C)
(Proverbs 8:22-31 / John 16:12-15)
16.06.2019

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the beginning of this celebration we prayed: “God our Father sent into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification”. Note the words: God **the Father** sent into the world the Word of truth, that is to say **his Son** Jesus and **the Holy Spirit**. The persons of the Trinity are named.

In today’s gospel passage, we hear Jesus say: “Everything the Father has is mine; and all that the Spirit tells us will be taken from what is mine”.

These two quotations – one from the Holy Scriptures and the other from the liturgy – allow us to affirm that God – who is one – manifests himself as a trinity of persons: the Father, the Son and the Spirit. These three persons are at one and the same time ‘one’ and ‘in relationship with one another’. There is no fusion, nor confusion between them: The Father reveals himself through his Son but is not the Son; the Son reveals who the Father is but He is not the Father; the Spirit is the communion of love which unites the Father and the Son. One God in three persons!

God is a communion of persons. There is life and love in Him. Since we were created in the image and likeness of the one God who is relationship in Himself, we are called to live lives of relationship: relationship with God and with one another. Each one of us is different; we are all unique, but each one of us has to live in communion with others, respectful of them, loving and serving in their regard. For Christians, interpersonal relationships are essential. In the Christian vision, we are all interconnected. Communion is of the very essence of Christianity. There are consequences to this for our lives in the here and now... and the consequences are multiple.

First of all, we have to live a relationship with the Lord in prayer.

Prayer is not a monologue. It sometimes happens that when we pray we speak only to ourselves. We ask the questions and give the answers. Although we may consider such sessions to be prayer, they are not really.

True prayer is not a monologue; we do not just talk with ourselves. Authentic prayer is a dialogue. We talk with God who is different to us and we listen to Him! True prayer is a dialogue between God and each one of us. In prayer we are meant not only to speak, but also and perhaps above all to listen! Prayer is an expression of the relationship which exists between God and each one of us. It helps us to grow in our identity as a child of God. Because our God is a God of surprises, true prayer will always be, to some extent, a surprising experience which opens up new horizons to us.

A second consequence of the fact that we were created in the image and likeness of God who is Trinity, a communion of persons, is that we have to live in relationship with one another. We cannot be a Christian and live on our own, in an isolated way. We are meant to be interconnected. We need one another and we are called to help one another. We need the help of others. Others need our help. We are called to love one another, that is to say to respect and serve others, to help them grow and become who they are. Every desire or pretence to be somehow self-sufficient or autonomous is sinful. We are meant to walk the path of life hand in hand.

I remember a lady who lived in a block of flats. She thought she was a good Christian because she spoke to nobody. She did not know who was living above, beside or below her. 'I speak to nobody', she used to tell me. 'I have no sin to confess; my conscience reproaches me nothing! I am sorry, dear lady, but this is precisely the reason for why your attitude is unchristian and sinful!

We are members of a body, the body of Christ, the Church. One member should not ignore the other members. When a member rejoices, all the members are meant to rejoice. When a member suffers, all the members are to suffer with that person. Each member needs all the others if the body is to function properly

The fact that God is Trinity implies also that Christian denominations have to live in communion with one another. As Christians we simply cannot ignore one another. On the eve of his passion Jesus prayed: "Father, may all be one so that the world may believe that you sent me." May all my disciples be one so that the world may believe that we (you, Father, and me) are one and that you sent me into the world to reveal you! I hear a call there for us to visit other congregations, other denominations; we have to discover one another, respect one another, pray together and bear witness together to Christ. We are all legitimately different but we are all called to live in communion with one another.

Another consequence of the fact that we were created in the image of God – the image of a God who is a relationship of persons – is that we are meant to live in relationship with each other at the political level as well.

Those who were elected to political office are called to sit down together with all their legitimate differences to listen to one another; they are called to work together and arrive at consensual compromise for the good of all.

As a vision for our world, nationalism is outmoded. Today, nations have to build bridges and not walls. They have to try to connect. With wisdom and generosity, nations have to strive to keep their doors open to those who seek asylum. Nations have to work together to improve their shared relationships. The way forward is not 'each one on his or her own', but 'all united together'. The way forward is not to separate, it is not to divide in order to reign, but to be united, with all working together to build up peace. Nations have to live in communion with one another with respect and without confusion, if we are ever to arrive at peace and concord.

As we have just seen, the celebration of the mystery of God as Trinity which we celebrate today has implications for our ordinary everyday lives. Our lives have to become a reflection of the life of God who is a communion of persons in Himself. Our lives are meant to give flesh to the mystery of God who is a relationship of persons united in love. May we give flesh to the mystery of God in our lives! May the Holy Spirit enlighten our paths and show us how to do that in practical ways!