



May 30, 2010

Ordinary Time: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth...will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine;"
John 16: 13-15

Dear Friends;

I have a vague memory of a movie title called "Yours, Mine and Ours." This may be an apt title for describing the Holy Trinity which we celebrate this day. What we say of God is of ultimate importance because what we say of God is reflected in us who have been fashioned by and in the image of the one who made us.

For Christians our experience of God begins with the revelation of Jesus. We experience Jesus as the Human face of God. The One God, who Israel discovered to be their liberator and savior, is uniquely present in the Son—Jesus. The loving bond between Jesus and his Father—God—is the Holy Spirit.

God is revealed by Jesus to be the perfect loving relationship. God is one, but is experienced in three unique ways—Father, Son and Spirit; or St Augustine would call them Lover, Beloved and the Love-Between-Them. We might describe them by what we see them do for us—Life giver, Savior, Sanctifier.

There is no competition between the individuals within God; but in a perfect out-pouring of love, life flows from one to the other and back again. It is a perfectly choreographed dance, an impeccable hospitable gift of self and dynamic creative energy. Everyone shares equal dignity, equal love, equal life and equal glory.

It was first of all out of love that Jesus—God in the flesh—comes, not because we sinned, but because God first loved. God's desire from the beginning is to be one with his creation. Just as within the Godhead is a perfect relationship of love—one for the other—so we are called to be one for the other. It can only be through the gift of the Spirit—the bond of love—that can accomplish this in us.

Because we were flawed and sinned (marring our original dignity) it became all the more critical for God to unleash the healing and unifying power of the Spirit. And now we are drawn into the life of love, communion and shared dignity with God!

None of us can reflect God by ourselves. It takes a community—a family that shares in the Spirit of God. We at St. Anne are called to be just such a sacrament of the Holy Trinity. When we build community, we reflect the Triune God. When we warmly welcome others into our community, we reflect the divine relationship. When we generously share in loving gratitude all that we have and are, we mirror God. When we help nurture life, we shine with divine energy. When we tend to the poor and reconcile the estranged, we burn with a holy fire. When we find love in what the world finds unlovable, we are a sacred sign.

The Trinity is not so much a dogma but an experience of perfect love—what's mine is yours, what's yours is mine, and ours is the unbreakable bond of love in God.

Peace,

Fr. Ron