

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity — June 16, 2019

There is a well-known African folk tale about three blind men who examine an elephant to try to determine what sort of animal it might be. One grabs hold of the elephant's tail and exclaims, 'This creature is very much like a rope.' The second man runs his hand over one of the tusks, declaring, 'This creature is very much like a spear.' Finally the third man, patting the wide, solid side of the elephant, says, 'This creature is surely a wall.' Individually, each of the blind men grasped only one aspect of the majestic creature. But, by sharing their insights, they understood a great deal more about elephants than any one of them could have alone.

Just like these three men, all of the Church's various celebrations throughout the year work together to help us enter more deeply into the mysteries of salvation, and how God has been, and continues to be, at work in the world. This Sunday's Celebration honoring the Most Holy Trinity is no exception. The special Feast was a rather late addition to the Church's cycle of Feasts. In fact, it is said that Pope Alexander II (who died in 1077) objected to having a special day to honor the Holy Trinity because, he said, The Holy Trinity is celebrated every Sunday and every day in the Church's prayer. It was Pope John XII who made the Feast of the Holy Trinity part of the official liturgical calendar of the Universal Church in 1334.

So why is this important? Why is a celebration of the Holy Trinity important? Any ideas? Last weekend, I asked you about your own particular experience of prayer and how many of you are more inclined to pray to The Father, many are more inclined to pray to Jesus, the Son, and many are inclined to pray to The Holy Spirit! They were interesting numbers It certainly appears that most people pray to God Maybe whichever Person of the Blessed Trinity shows up!

While that is ok, it is certainly valuable for us to understand some of the real importance of the Holy Trinity and the mystery of our God. I am sure that our practice of prayer to the Saints in our Catholic Tradition has often kept us from more closely looking at the Three Divine Persons, that is our God. The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, falling as it does on the Sunday after Pentecost, brings together all of the mysteries that we have celebrated these past 90 days, the whole of Lent and Easter. These are the creative and saving and sanctifying work of God that, not only freed us from the

power of sin and death, but they are also the mysteries that knit us and unite us as a community of Faith in His Church.

The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity is a reminder to us that our God is a perfect unity of relationship — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is an invitation to us to realize that all of our relationships are a reflection of that unique relationship that exists in our God. By His Grace, we are being constantly invited to be a part of that relationship, and to live in that Love of our God. This is not a static relationship but rather one that is in perpetual motion! (Like those fidget spinners!)

The Gospel today is such a helpful insight into this! As Jesus prepares to depart this world, He says to His disciples: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because He will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that He will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

Wow! That is some powerful teaching about the Trinity ... the Unity the Oneness of our God. This is why Jesus could so well say to His disciples as He prepared to depart this world: “It is good for you that I should go, because if I do not go, He will not come to you, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, who will teach you in all things”.

“Everything that the Father has is mine”how important is that to our prayer!!! There is no ‘yours and mine’ in the Godhead only oursas the Three Persons live in a Communion of Love. May our communion of love continue to grow us as His family, and may the gift of His Spirit come upon us in abundance. We are at a huge stage of growth in our journey with Him! May it flourish for us in His Grace !

Next Sunday is Pledge Sunday — Thank God!! It will speak powerfully to us about where we are in our growth!

A church that much like ourselves was planning their growth and expansion, was praying to the Lord for success and fruitfulness in their campaign. The preacher came to church on Sunday and made his plea to

the people: “Brothers and Sisters,” he said, “This Church must get up and walk!”

“Amen Brother! Let her walk!” came a voice from the back.

“Brothers and Sisters, this church must get up and run!” said the preacher.

“Amen Brother! Let her run!” came the voice from the back.

“What’s more than that Brothers and Sisters, this church must get up and fly!”

“Amen Brother! Let her fly!” came the voice from the back.

“Now Brothers and Sisters, it takes a lot of sacrifice, and effort, and money for a church to fly!”

“Amen Brother!” came the voice from the back. “Let her walk!”

We count on your prayers and generous support as we come to Pledge Sunday next weekend.

—Fr. Gerry Hurley