



May 26, 2013

Ordinary Time—The Most Holy Trinity

Jesus Said 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 into all truth."—John 16:12

Dear Friends;

The attorney for the wealthy woman opened the sealed envelope containing her last will and testament. His office was crowded with all the hopeful relatives who were eager to receive their inheritances. As the attorney began to read, they leaned forward at the edge of their seats. "And being of sound mind and body," he read, nearing the end, I decided to spend all of my money on myself! There should be nothing left."

Unlike the woman in this story Jesus does not leave us empty handed. He has bequeathed on us the Holy Spirit. Jesus has spent nothing on himself rather has given it all for us.

Today's Gospel from John comes from the last chapters. Jesus is giving his last instructions to his disciples on the night before he dies. Throughout his ministry Jesus has been trying to tell them who God is. God is love. And Jesus is the face of that love. The Spirit is the loving-bond between God the Father and the Son. With the gift of the Spirit Jesus now draws us into that perfect circle of love.

Today we celebrate the mystery of God. A mystery is something that you can never fully explain. It is a deep reality of which you can never get to the bottom, because there is always more. One of life's most wondrous mysteries is love. When we love someone we can never completely or adequately explain it. This is why we will use music, poetry and art to express the mystery of love.

The same can be said of God. If we think we can fully explain God than it is not God but a projection of our self we are proclaiming. For Christians we cling to the revelation of our Jewish ancestors who came to know that God is One there is no other. We also believe that God has shown Godself with three distinct faces—Father, Son and Spirit. I like the names St. Augustine used—the Lover, the Beloved and the Love Between them.

We believe that we are made in God's image. Therefore what we say of God should be reflected in us. God is a holy communion—a perfect community of love. We who are made in God's image are called to be a holy and loving communion. If we are not striving to be one; if we are not concerned about the planet and everyone and thing on it; if we are not contributing to the common good we do not know God. We as Church are meant to be a model of unity in diversity, a new type of humanity redeemed by and on fire with God's Spirit of Love.

This week our local Church, the Diocese of Oakland, welcomes our new shepherd—Most Rev. Michael Barber SJ. This Saturday he was ordained and installed as the fifth bishop of Oakland. Let us pray for him as he embarks on his ministry of building up the local church of the diocese. May the Spirit unite all of us in love and empower us with the gifts to draw others into the circle of love we call the Holy Trinity.

Peace,

Fr. Ron