



June 3, 2012

Ordinary Time—Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."—Mathew 28: 19-20

Dear Friends;

“God showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand. It was round as any ball... I thought, ‘What can this be?’ My question was answered in general terms... ‘It is everything that is made.’ I marveled at how this could be, for it seemed that it might suddenly fall into nothingness, it was so small. An answer for this was given to my understanding: ‘It lasts and ever shall last because God loves it. And in this fashion, all things have their being by the grace of God.’ In this little thing, I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loves it. The third thing is that God keeps it. And what did I see in this? Truly, the Maker, the Lover and the Keeper.”

These words come from the Medieval English mystic, St Julian of Norwich (1342-1416). At the age of 31 she had a series of visions where she intensely experienced the mystery of God who loves in triplicate—as Father, Son and Brother, and Spirit; or as she expresses it Maker, Lover and Keeper.

Our Christian understanding of God always begins with Jesus. This was also true for Julian. She compared Jesus to a mother who is wise, loving and merciful. Julian believed that a mother’s role was the truest of all callings on earth because it is associated with God’s creative power. It also reflects God’s tender protection of every creature. Motherhood also reflects God’s desire to become so close to humankind that God would become human in the womb of the Virgin Mother.

While medieval theologians would try to formulate complex constructs to explain the Trinity, the simple hermit Julian would focus on how people experience God. God is ultimately a relationship of love that calls us into being, nurtures, heals, guides and sustains us. Even in the world in which Julian lived which was ravaged by the hundred years’ war and the plague she could still experience God’s care. Her experience of this God would lead her to proclaim, “All things shall be well, all manner of things shall be well, all shall be well.”

In our own time we live in a world ravaged by wars, HIV/AIDS, and famine. And yet are called to also proclaim the God who creates nurtures and sustains us. We do this by realizing that all is interrelated. And we must nurture, sustain and care for each other and creation the way God cares for us.

Jesus has shown us that God a loving relationship. We are created for love and find our meaning in relating in love to others. We discover who we are reflected in the eyes of others. We need to proclaim this love which transforms and saves us. The only way that people will be able to hear the Good News is if we become it. We must become a community that reflects the loving bond that is the Holy Trinity.

Peace,

Fr Ron