

Homily for the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

God Is A Trinity

Friends, today is one of those days we can easily get caught up in theological nuance. It can be quite cold and abstract to look at the doctrine of the Trinity and to talk about God as a Trinity of Persons. Of what relevance is this doctrine to your life and my life? Perhaps, it is more heart warming to talk about God is love than to speak of him as a Trinity of Persons. But the reality is that we can only talk about God is love when we talk about him as a Trinity of Persons. The concept of person is very deep, and by its very nature love commanding. A person defines himself or herself in relation to others. The other of a person is a subject to be loved not an object to be used. Because there is the other person, one is then drawn into loving him or her. Saint John Paul II aptly said that love is the natural response we owe the other person. Therefore when we talk about God as a Trinity of Persons, we are invariably talking about God as love. And by knowing him as a Trinity of Persons, we are transformed from individuals into persons who are capable of loving.



Why so? Because as Bishop Robert Barron argues, it is in the nature of being, a person to communicate and make images of himself or herself. Thomas Aquinas goes on to say that the higher the being, the more perfect and interior the image the being makes. In other words, God communicates and makes perfect images of himself in creation. In the light of this, we can reasonably say that he creates to communicate himself in the work of his hands. No wonder the language of Genesis account of creation speaks of God as creating humanity in his image and likeness. In this sense, everything in creation communicates something of God since God is communicating in everything himself as a Trinity of Persons. And he is a Trinity of Persons because he is love. This means we too are to communicate love. This is the heart of today's celebration. This is why we celebrate this day - to know who God is so that we can know who we are. For unless we know God, we can't know ourselves. And as said earlier, this knowing transforms us into persons capable of loving and being loved.

Against this backdrop, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is not a problem to be solved, but a feast to be celebrated. That is, we gather today to celebrate our knowing of God and the knowing of ourselves as images of God communicating God as a Trinity of Persons. We gather today to celebrate the ramifications of this knowledge. We aren't merely products of chance and natural selection as evolution biology would make us believe. We are intended images of God, communicated into existence in love and for love. We have purpose. We have meaning. We have a destiny. We have hope. We are to live in anticipation of the good God is bringing about in us and in creation as he communicates and makes images of himself. We can see how everything is connected and in relationships. We can't be afraid of what the world throws at us. We can't continue to live in fear and worry. Yes, we might have missed the mark, lost our purpose and gone off the rails. But today, we hear anew that we are images of God, communicating in the world what God is communicating in us.

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