



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle C

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"[The Holy Spirit] will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

This passage from the Last Supper discourse in John (16:12-15) draws us to the promise of the Paraclete. Today, celebrating the Trinity, we notice more clearly the unity of action of the three divine Persons. The teaching of Jesus comes from the Father, and the teaching of the Spirit comes from Jesus. There is pure unity between the will of the Father, that of the Son and that of the Spirit eternally speaking as one, "*loqui ut unum.*"

The three Persons of the Trinity exist eternally and all participated in the coming of Jesus Christ as man, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin womb of Mary his Mother, the Word of God Made Flesh. The Word (*Logos* in the original Greek) is eloquently stated in the first chapter of John: "*The Word (Logos) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" This prompts us to reflect on the unity of the Trinity, in perfect love, manifested in our redemption and salvation.

What is the "take away" from this revealed truth of Three Persons in One God? As we merge this truth with the truth that we are made in the image of God (*Imago Dei*), we see our personhood and human dignity illuminated with a new identity that is much greater than most people can imagine. In the Trinity, three Persons engage in mutual and self-giving activity that is completely infused in perfect love. There is a word for this perfect love that becomes the definition of Person: *Perichoresis*, (*choresis* - Latin for heart; *peri* - Latin for encircling.) The result is the encircling of each other in perfect love, heart to heart. Persons, then, are individuals in *Perichoresis* with each other. The Trinity: three Persons in One God; Mystical Body of Christ: every created person in perfecting unity with each other and God.

It is because we are made in the Image of God, that we, too, are persons. To aspire to the perfection of our personhood is to ascend to a purity of "heart" with each of us joined in this "*Perichoresis*" with the Trinity. Our life journey, then, is to seek the perfection of our personhood, as we rise above our mortal lives, purifying our relationships not only with God in the Trinity, but with each other. This is the perfection of the Mystical Body of Christ, a perfection that can be realized in membership with the Church Community that Christ left us.

As Christians, we are called to give dignity through love to each other. Dignity is grounded in the Three Persons of the Trinity, and extends to Community. As we come to see that human dignity is only possible in Community and never in isolation, we see that, at our spiritual core, we are constituted in the loving activity that defines our lives as persons.

In reflection, consider this truth of Personhood, revealed today through the Trinity. May your spirit soar as you sense the exhilaration of being made in the image of the Trinity, escaping the mortal bounds of the confinement of individualism and joining the Mystical Body of Christ.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.
When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth;
for he will not speak on his own,
but will speak whatever he hears,
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
He will glorify me,
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
All that the Father has is mine.
For this reason I said
that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."*

The Gospel of the Lord