The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

May 26, 2013

How do you talk about the Most Holy Trinity? My earliest memory of dedicated teachers trying to introduce me to this great mystery include Sister Florence Marie drawing a triangle on the blackboard. Not too helpful. I can remember our assistant pastor Father Brendan Gallagher making use of the shamrock a la Saint Patrick. Again, not too helpful. I remember in my seminary years a conversation with my Roman classmate Jim Cuneo trying to figure out how to preach the mystery in a more logically coherent manner. That attempt is in today’s Bulletin.

The doctrine of the Trinity makes sense only in a particular context. On one hand, the doctrine is rich and complex as we try to fully comprehend it. On the other hand, it has a simplicity that allows us to connect and commune with God in the way that makes the most sense. The ease and accessibility of the Trinity allows us to understanding God in powerful ways.

For some people, looking at creation and knowing that there is a God who delights in crafting the smallest flower that will wither in a day or the deep sea urchin that will never be seen by a human eye is enough to inspire them. The idea of God the Creator forming us in God’s image gives meaning to one of the core questions in life: “Why do I exist?” The knowledge that we live because we have been created by the divine, that we are formed in God’s image for a reason and a purpose brings meaning to each day.

Another person might be inspired by the wisdom of Jesus. One of our homeless parishioners memorizes the words, allowing his teachings to become a part of his daily rhythm. We appreciate the man of sorrows who knows how to weep and walk alongside us in our pain. To hear how God journeyed among us, partaking in a sacred meal, suffering the depths of human emotion, gives people a sense of unity with the divine. Having someone who has gone before us, who knows what we might be feeling, allows us a sense that someone understands.

And for others, to have a Spirit who will not leave us abandoned and neglected, but fills us with abundance and joy, allows another path of communion with the divine. The Spirit moves in and among us, enlightening us, aiding our intellect, and helping us to fathom the mysteries surrounding us. The Spirit whispers understanding in our most confusing times and gives meaning to our deepest groaning. The Spirit of God gives birth in us, even as we give birth. We create alongside God. That powerful force of creation allowed us a glimpse of who God is, so much so that many Christians describe themselves as being born-again.

When we celebrate this feast we are reminded of the great mystery that envelops us as a community. We begin and end every Eucharist with the sign of the cross, made in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us do this with great care and with a renewed consciousness of what it means for us. We are never alone, for we dwell in communion with this most Holy Trinity, which draws us into its life even now and gifts us with the promise of eternal life.

So, today let us join together singing the words of that wonderful old hymn:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Paul A. Magnano

Pastor