

Trinity Sunday, 12 June 2022

Scriptures: Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Homily: Fr. Ken

This weekend we are celebrating the feast of the Most Holy Trinity: God as Father (Creator), Son (Redeemer), & Holy Spirit (Sanctifier).

While a multitude of possible themes are duly appropriate and inspiring, one theme especially relevant today is simply this affirmation: ***Hope encourages.***

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the enlivening presence of the Spirit in the midst of the Christian community. This weekend we consider and reflect upon the significance of that divine presence.

The Gospel pericope derives from the farewell discourses of Jesus. One of the themes is the promise of the coming of the Spirit, the encouraging energy of God guiding Christian life and continuing Jesus' mission.

Jesus has proclaimed the Kingdom of God and the love of the Creator. Jesus' message is life, and it goes beyond any formulation. Its demands, which the Spirit will make known to us, are always new and surprising. The Spirit will guide us "into all the truth" which comes from the Father.

Jesus shows us the way to the Father, and the Spirit will be with us on our journey. Indeed, the future of humanity will be a welcoming one, even a thrilling one.

If the feast of the Ascension reminds us that we must take the Lord's work into our hands, Pentecost assures us that such a mission is possible because the Spirit is with us. The Spirit may

lead us on paths we have not foreseen and which, therefore, make us somewhat afraid and perhaps distrustful. We tend to prefer ourselves being settled rather than having to change. But how are we to be faithful to the one “who makes all things new” if we cling to our thin security? How are we to be in solidarity with human suffering if we are not imaginative in our ways of expressing our commitments? In this sense, fear can be a denial of religious faith.

Looking to the first reading from the Book of Proverbs, the passage is quite poetic and creative. To whom does the poem of wisdom really refer? It remains a subject of discussion among Biblical scholars. But it is clearly an expression of God as Trinity. That Biblical text **invites us to hope**, because everything is in God’s hands from the beginning. And everything was created out of love, gratuitous love, as if rejoicing and delighting in the family of humanity. In this sense, delighting itself is not to be understood as something superficial. It is creative; it requires inventiveness as we can easily see with children. As one prominent educator recalled: “My education was interrupted when I was six years old and I started school.”

Faced with all the enormous problems we are experiencing today in our world, especially regarding our health, our economy, and our environment—namely COVID, inflation, and climate change—it truly does take humility and courage to face new situations, especially when they seem so hopeless. We need to return to the sources. For Christians, the critically important source of courage is hope. St Paul in his letter to the Christians in Rome, tells us that “hope does not disappoint” because it comes from the Spirit. We Christians today are the very ones called to be witnesses to that gift of the Holy Spirit, that gift of hope.

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