

Feast of the Holy Trinity      5-31-15

When it comes to 5:00pm/9:am/11:00 am, there are the little questions: is there enough parking? is someone in my seat in the pew? Does the priest have a watch?

And this afternoon/this morning, there are the big questions: where is my life going? Is there a God, or are we alone? Do any of us dare to really trust in God? Is there reason to have hope and be joyful?

Welcome to the great feast of the Holy Trinity—God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has said that the Holy Trinity “is not the product of human reasoning. It is the face with which God revealed himself...by walking with humanity, in the history of the people of Israel, and above all in Jesus of Nazareth.”

Pope Francis speaks of the Trinity as a form of love, “not sentimental, emotional love, but the love of the Father who is at the origin of every life, the love of the Son who died on the cross and rose again, the love of the Spirit that renews man and the world.”

I hope that each of you has in some way experienced the goodness of the living God. Perhaps we have stepped outside at night and found our way to God the Father, creator of our magnificent universe--millions and millions of galaxies, each with billions of stars. God the Father, creator of dark matter and subatomic particles and red roses and innocent babies, God who walked with the people of Israel, and who at last created us and gave us this day of our lives. I love and adore that God.

Perhaps we have encountered Jesus Christ: God with us, first in Jesus of Nazareth, now in the Church, the Eucharist, the poor. Jesus, who saved us through his life, his teachings, his healing, his death, resurrection, and sending of the Spirit. Perhaps we have come to realize that Jesus gave his life for us and that he has forgiven us. Perhaps every day we ask, "What would Jesus do? What would Jesus think? What would Jesus say?" I pray that everyone here will hunger and long to somehow meet him!

And more and more Catholics appreciate the Holy Spirit, who is God, whom Jesus promised to send, the Spirit who was poured out on Easter Sunday evening, at Pentecost, and continues to be with us to this day. Sometimes a strong wind, at other times a gentle breeze, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray, gives wisdom and courage, leads us to truth, and teaches us that we are adopted daughters and sons of God. Take a deep breath, and you are breathing in the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Trinity will mean nothing until we have somehow met God, and we will not meet God until we stop looking everywhere else for fulfillment and peace.

So perhaps we celebrate today's feast by admiring creation, by comparing our life to that of Jesus, but noticing the moments that the Spirit has led and guided us. We will never wrap our minds around the Holy Trinity, but perhaps we can allow the Trinity to wrap itself around us.