

## HOMILY FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2017

1. God as Trinity, sometimes sounds like committee
  - a. Grow up with images of God as old man, chairman of the board
  - b. Jesus, his Son, who works for the Father
  - c. Run into trouble trying to visualize the Holy Spirit
  - d. Dove or tongue of fire does not seem to work as part of committee
  - e. Reminds us that our idea of God is probably faulty
2. Another idea of God is that God is love personified
  - a. What is love, how can Trinity personify love
  - b. God reveals Trinity as love to the world
3. If a person deeply loves another, person wants to give himself/herself to that person
  - a. People in love will do all they can to share themselves with others
  - b. Will talk about likes and dislikes, values, hopes and dreams
  - c. Sharing these most important and intimate parts of each other are ways to make themselves known
  - d. But as separate individuals there is a veil between us
  - e. Our bodies serve as icons ways in which we struggle to share our identities with another
  - f. They do this imperfectly, so relationships and friendships take time to develop
4. God as love itself chooses to give Himself
  - a. Being unlimited the very gift He gives is Himself
  - b. The Son of God is total image, the very being of the Father
  - c. God has chosen not to limit His love
  - d. In the Son, all of creation has come into existence
  - e. To bring this creation to fullness of glory the Son has entered creation in Jesus
  - f. As Jesus told us the more we come to know Him, the closer we come to knowing the Father
  - g. For He and the Father are one, the only difference is that one is the lover and the other is the beloved
5. Fullness of love is that it be mutual
  - a. This mutual love between Father and Son is so powerful, that love is a person as well
  - b. Just as the Father gives everything to the Son and the Son gives everything to the Father so the Spirit is this gift to the Father and the Son
6. Where this becomes practical for us is that it is through the Spirit that Jesus returns His creation, including us to the Father

- a. The reason for Jesus to suffer, die and rise is so that he can return us to the Father
  - b. Through the power of the Holy Spirit he chooses to offer us to the Father
  - c. Our experience of being offered to the Father is that the Holy Spirit becomes our advocate
  - d. The Holy Spirit being the power of love gives us the ability to say yes to Jesus, when He calls us to the Father
  - e. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as being another advocate, one who comes like Jesus did
  - f. Jesus is the offer of love; the Holy Spirit is that force within us that wants to join Jesus and know the fullness of love
  - g. We speak of the gifts of the Spirit, wisdom, understanding, fortitude, counsel, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord (wonder, awe)
  - h. Through these gifts the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to live as if we are saying yes to God
7. Scripture likes to use the image of marriage
- a. God wants to marry us, his creation; wants us to be one with Him
  - b. Only way for us to be free and capable of saying yes, was to become one with us through Jesus
  - c. Jesus is the first fruits in His death and Resurrection, He said yes for us
  - d. God also respects our individual freedom
    - i. We have the choice of being like Adam and Eve and looking elsewhere for happiness and meaning; God does not force us to love Him
  - e. If we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and His gifts, we change our lives, the Spirit gives us the power to join Jesus in saying yes to God
8. The more deeply we choose to accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the more we will become like, the very personification of love
- a. We will discover the bond, the unity, that is the very Trinity