

TRINITY SUNDAY HOMILY

1. Some things are so basic it is almost impossible to define them
 - a. What is love
 - b. What is life
 - i. Describe difference between rock and a plant
 - ii. Difference between living animal and a dead animal
 - c. Intuitive sense but it is difficult to put into words
2. God is more basic than these things
 - a. He does not just live, He is life itself
 - b. He does not just love, He is love itself
3. Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday, an attempt to put a descriptive title on the mystery that is our God
 - a. God is One, He is the supreme being, nothing exists except by His choice
 - i. God chooses to love, that love is spoken in the Word of God, the Son of God
 - ii. That love is a powerful force, it is the bond between the Father and the Son
 - iii. It is life itself
 - iv. So God is three while being One
 - b. Important to recognize we will never fully understand meaning of Trinity or of God
 - i. Story of St. Augustine, brilliant teacher, trying to understand the Trinity, to understand God
 1. Walking along seashore, trying to figure it out
 2. Comes across a child putting water into a bucket
 3. Asks what he is doing, child says I am going to put the ocean into this bucket
 4. Augustine laughs, you cannot put vast ocean into a little bucket
 5. Child answers, I will do this before you will be able to put mystery of God into your mind; then disappears
4. We come to know God as Moses did in the first reading
 - a. At some point we experience, the meaning of our baptism
 - b. We realize that God is a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness
 - c. i.e., somehow we come to know that there is goodness in the world
 - i. ideally this happens in family, and we grow convinced of God's love for us
 - d. But as Moses says we can be a stiff-necked people
 - i. i.e., we choose our ways over God's ways
 - ii. perhaps we choose our own pleasure rather than be grateful for God's gifts
 - iii. so we can get caught up in pornography and lust or drunkenness or gluttony
 - iv. we may choose to put ourselves above everyone else
 - v. get caught up in ambitious pride or anger or laziness or jealousy
 - e. These have been called deadly sins because they become habitual and take control of our lives
5. God has so loved the world, that He speaks that Word of love in its fullness to us in Jesus
 - a. Jesus came to proclaim and remind us of what Moses said
 - b. God truly is merciful and gracious
 - c. No matter how evil we may have been, no matter how ingrained an evil habit has become
 - d. Jesus announces on the Cross that God still loves us, He forgives us
6. Changing a lifestyle that we have become used to is difficult
 - a. Habits are habits because they are mindless

- b. Our whole body has become so used to doing certain actions, that we continue despite our wish to change
- 7. So God also is the Holy Spirit who comes into our life as assurance that God remains with us
 - a. We experience the Holy Spirit in people who express their care for us
 - b. He speaks to us through the Scriptures challenging us to reform and promising forgiveness
 - c. He gives us the power of God in the sacraments especially reconciliation and Eucharist where we can recommit ourselves to actually accepting God's healing love
- 8. Trinity is about a God who cares so much for us that He becomes intimately involved in our lives
 - a. On who will not give up on us
- 9. Trying to understand the idea of how God can be three in one or one in three can be a fun philosophical concept to try to explain
 - a. What is most important is that God is not just an idea
 - b. He is a Person, He is three persons, actively reaching out to us promising us the gift of true happiness and life
 - c. A happiness and life that is not like the world gives which fades quickly
 - d. Rather a happiness and life that will last into eternity.