

Father Tom's Homily - Solemnity of the Holy Trinity: Claimed in the Name of the Trinity

What does the Holy Trinity mean to me? We like to belong. We like to belong to a family, to a parish, to a community. No one is an island. We need the love, support and friendship of others. Above all, we want and need to have the sense of belonging. When we grow up in a happy family we are well set up for life. Holy Trinity is a perfect family of three in its fullness. Three-in-One. Just like the fundamental three legs to a table.

How then do we participate in the life of this Trinitarian family? It is through baptism. When we were baptized we were claimed in the name of the Holy Trinity. The priest or deacon poured the water and said, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." From that point, we participate in the life of triune God. Today's celebration, the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, reminds us that we belong to the fullness of God.

The readings each give a glance at one of the Persons of the Trinity. In the first reading from *Exodus*. God came down from a cloud and proclaimed His Name, "Lord." Or perhaps it was the angelic hosts that cried out, "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." These are the attributes given to the first person of the Trinity, the Father. The Gospel proclaims that God's love is so great, that He gave his Son to us to save us from the assault of evil.

The second reading from *Second Corinthians* presents Father, Son and Spirit as St Paul prays that we continue to enjoy the union with the Holy Spirit, the Power of God working through us and uniting us into the Church. The heart of the mystery is simply that God dwells within us. Sadly, some people continue the concept held by many during revolutionary times that God is

removed from us. That is not what God told us. In *John 14* Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” The ability to call upon the power of God and the ability to be vehicles and instruments of this power forever is the gift of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Our dignity as sons and daughters of God is far more than a title. We have been claimed by God. We belong to Him. He belongs to us. We have to keep this in mind when others present as normal that where God is not found. We need to ask ourselves, “Is God in the room, in the house, at the party?” If people are enjoying His gifts while still honouring His Presence, then we know He is there. If people are flaunting the basic dictates of morality, then we know He is not there. And we know that it is beneath our dignity as children of God to be there ourselves.

In the sacrament of penance, good people come to a recognition that they have not behaved as well as they should. Sometimes people will have a huge laundry list of serious sins they wish to confess. They will go on and on talking about sins of hatred, sins of disrespecting themselves and others. When they finish, if they have sat across from me, they will often look at me sheepishly expecting a scolding or something. I do not scold people. I simply mention to them, “You are better than that, and you know that. That is why you are here. And I know also that I am better than the many times I have strayed from God. By “*better*” I mean that we are sons and daughters of God. We are children of God. We are better than the forces of the world that are trying to destroy us. Today and always, when we bless ourselves by making the sign of the cross, let us consciously demonstrate and remember who God is, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and who we are, God’s children carrying His Presence into the world.