

Trinity Sunday  
June 16, 2019  
“Relationships: Human and Divine”

Pro 8:22-31

Rom 5:1-5

Jn 16:12-15

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Many years ago, in his book Devotions, John Donne wrote that “No man is an island.” Later, the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, authored a book with this title. The theme, of course, is that every human being is related to and dependent upon others. We cannot live a truly healthy life in complete isolation. Even the saintly hermits of the desert knew that they were related to others. They understood that they were in a wonderful solidarity with the entire human race – for whom they prayed. Moreover, they could be most warm and hospitable to any stranger who came to see them.

We simply cannot survive without friendships and close relationships. We need interaction with others in order to grow and develop. In fact, most people enter marriage because they recognize their incompleteness. Thus, they live a common life, share intimacy, correct and support one another, and rear children in order to continue the human race.

Although we need personal relationships to develop and mature as fully human persons – we also need a relationship with God. No human love or relationship can ever complete or fulfill us. We truly need to be one with God, now and in eternity, to be completely fulfilled and at peace.

What is marvelous to discover is that God is a Trinity of relationships. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are, somehow, three divine persons in a loving, creative dynamism of relationship.

Today, the Book of Proverbs reveals that Divine Wisdom was present when the Father began His creation of the world. Theologians and the Church have come to understand that Divine Wisdom is also the Divine Word, or Son, of God. This Son took our flesh in the person of Jesus Christ!

Divine Wisdom also found such delight in the human race that He could not abide with any separation. Consequently, after we sinned, the Son became one of us in order to lead us back to the Father! Moreover, because the Word was the Son of the Father and Son of Man, he could be the perfect intermediary between the Godhead and ourselves! Jesus could speak to the Father on our behalf and also offer himself as the perfect reconciler in a sacrifice of love by his death on the cross!

The Father continues His creative activity at every moment. He sustains the universe and He creates a new soul for every child conceived in the womb. Jesus came for our salvation and redeemed us once and for all time – provided we respond to his overture of love. Jesus, the Son, continues to offer perfect worship before the Godhead – and has sent his Holy Spirit into the world and into our lives. At every moment the Holy Spirit brings us divine inspiration and the creative energy of God which is divine life and love.

This same Spirit blesses us with gifts which are unique and special to each one of us. It enables us to carry on the creativity of God in our own special way. And it enables us to love one another as God has first loved us! The Holy Spirit also enlightens us to the Gospel – to the words of Jesus that come from the Father!

Finally, in the passage from Romans, St. Paul teaches us that even our suffering and afflictions can bring us closer to God. We have been saved by our faith – And our faith is our belief in, and our relationship with, God. Thus, while we struggle with hardship, we endure, we grow, we hope – And our hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us!

So, Brothers and Sisters, let us rejoice on this day. God has made us, not as islands of isolation, but for one another as well as for Himself. Let us pray that we may continue to grow in this awareness – and in all the relationships with which we continue to be blessed!

Amen.

June 16, 2019

Msgr. Russell G. Terra