

The Most Holy Trinity  
May 30, 2021  
“God’s Ways: Our Only Hope”

Dt 4:34-40  
Rom 8:14-17  
Mt 28:16-20

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

For the past several months, our nation has been torn by outbursts of mob violence. It hasn’t been confined to just one place or time as it was in past generations. Instead, it has been almost on-going, but often, in new and different places.

Usually, it starts out as a peaceful and lawful demonstration of protest. But then it can turn into rioting, looting, destruction, with serious injury and death – as well as complete disregard for lawful authority!

How can the rioters justify such immorality and destruction? How can they vandalize and destroy the property of innocent people whom they don’t know?

The most obvious answer that I can think of is that they don’t know God. Or if they think they know God, they have no regard for what God has revealed and commanded. These people have lost their way – In fact, much of our nation has lost its way. Moreover, the political decisions, the news and entertainment media, as well as the advertisers prove that we have, generally, lost our way as a nation.

In today’s first scripture reading, Moses urges the Chosen People to be faithful to the Lord God. They are to keep all the statutes and commandments God has given them. He teaches them that the Lord God of Israel is the one true God of all people and of the entire cosmos.

He recounts for them the seemingly impossible things that God has done for them in the past. He freed them from Egypt and the Pharaoh; He sustained them in the wilderness; He brought them to the Promised Land. None of the false gods or their images had ever done such wonders that the Lord God has done in the history of the world! Moreover, if they as a people are steadfast in their belief and faithful to all of God’s commandments, they will be blessed in every way for generations to come.

Sadly, the succeeding generations did not live up to what they had promised. Nevertheless, there were always a few who were faithful. This remnant in every generation kept alive the trust and the gift that God had bequeathed to them.

Finally, when the time was right, God sent a human manifestation in Jesus, His Son. Jesus is the human manifestation of the Word of God – Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is also the human manifestation of the Wisdom of God who was, eternally, one with the Father at the beginning of the cosmic creation.

The Word, the Son, as Jesus, revealed more about God than we could ever know on our own. He gave us a way of hope, peace, and love for living our life here. He revealed that God is not what we want or expect Him to be – but always someone more – infinitely more – God is someone always more wonderful, more unfathomable, more loving, merciful, and welcoming than we could ever imagine!

In today's Gospel passage from St. Mark, Jesus commands and empowers his disciples to carry on his mission. They are to go out to the entire world and spread the Gospel, the Good News, far and wide. They are to make disciples of all nations, of every people and every race and tongue without any exceptions. They are to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, Jesus promises that he will be with us until the end of time. He will be with us with his Spirit, which is the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is that divine person of the Godhead who infuses us with divine life for our soul. That Spirit speaks to our hearts and minds – and shows us how to walk the pathway of Jesus as true disciples. And what a blessing the Spirit is!

St. Paul tells us that if we are led by the Spirit, we are, actually, children of God. We are not slaves – to anyone or to anything. We are sons and daughters of the Father. The Father has adopted us because we share the same humanity as Jesus, our brother! Moreover, someday, we will inherit all that Jesus inherited which is everlasting life and glory in God's presence.

However, Brothers and Sisters, there is a price to pay. We must be willing to accept suffering as Jesus accepted the hardships of life –and the evil that others visit upon us. Thus, our suffering, joined to that of Jesus, helps to atone for our sins and for the sins of others. And part of that suffering we must endure these days is the chaos, the unrest, the political dysfunction and disarray that continues to plague our nation and our world.

So let us pray on this day of the Most Holy Trinity, that our creating Father, our sacrificing Son and Brother, and our loving Spirit: be always with us – as we journey to them during our pilgrimage here on this earth!

Amen.

May 30, 2021

Msgr. Russell G. Terra