

The Most Holy Trinity (A)  
(Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9 / John 3:16-18)  
15.06.2014

Dear brothers and sisters,

This liturgy of Holy Trinity Sunday is **a majestic symphony of praise**. As we celebrate the feast, we sing again and again the praises of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We praise the Father for his unceasing work of creation through his Son.

We have just heard in today's gospel the famous verse: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life". We praise the Father who sent his Son among us to save us from sin and death.

We praise the Father who revealed himself totally to his Son, and who sent Jesus into the world to fully reveal His love to us

We praise the Son who did and said only what the Father told him to do and say.

We praise the Holy Spirit who is the communion of love between the Father and the Son, the gift promised and given to us by the Father and his Son, the Risen Lord.

We praise the Holy Spirit through whom the divine presence of the Son among us is now manifested in a way which is no longer limited to time and space as was the case in the days when the incarnate Christ walked this earth!

The obviously unfinished symphony of praise in honour of the Most Blessed Trinity reveals to us that God is not a lifeless object, an idol, even a precious one. God is not a distant being living in his own sphere, unconcerned about us. To the contrary the Most Holy Trinity reveals to us that there is life in God, that God is life. God is a communion of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who live in relationship with one another.

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is not without links with our lives in the here and now. The fact that we were created in the image of God who is communion implies that **we are called to live in communion**, in communion with God and with one another. We are not called to live each one on an isolated and self-sufficient island. We are not called to live an individualistic life in our ivory tower. If we want to be fully alive, to be really who we are: creatures in the image of our creator, we have to live in relationships of love, respect and service with one another, receiving ourselves from others, receiving ourselves from God, the Other par excellence, to begin with, so that we may give ourselves to others. What keeps God alive and active in our world is love at work in our lives. God revealed himself to Moses as "a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness". In our turn, we are called to love, to be people like our God: people of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness, rich in mercy.

Because we were created in the image of God who is a communion of persons, we are called to enter into relationships of communion with those with whom we live, work and relax, as well as those who are different to us, and those with whom we might legitimately disagree on certain points. Let us not hesitate to enlarge our horizons, to

make them more “catholic” that is to say more universal, more inclusive. Here in Northern Ireland, Catholics are called to enter into relationship with Protestants and vice versa. Unionists are called to enter into relationship with Nationalists and vice-versa. Christians are called to enter into relationship with people of other faiths, Muslims for example, or even with people of no faith at all and vice versa. We are all called to enter into relationship with people of other nationalities and different cultures. This is a challenging program destined for those who were created in the image of God, but this is the only way to follow if we want to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect.

To enter into relationship with someone, it is to listen to and speak to that person; it is to try to understand her, to trust him, to respect her and help him; it is to have the desire to build a common future with that person.

The truth is that **we were created in the image of God**. We are invited to look to God in order to understand who we are and what we are called to become, do and say. We are called to continually seek God in order to understand ourselves and become who we are. We know that we shall never know God fully, at least in this life. So our becoming an image of God will always be an unfinished process.

We were created in the image of God, but our great temptation is **to create God in our own image**; our great temptation is to think of God as the projected, idealised, image of ourselves. We look at ourselves in a mirror and convince ourselves that we are looking at God! This is for us a way to control God, to master Him. We don't want to take any risks! We don't want to be challenged. This kind of religious attitude cannot but become deceiving and disappear slowly and in the end lead us nowhere. So, we can ask ourselves: where are we on this front? Do we allow ourselves to be created in the image of God, or do we seek to create God in our image?

May the God who is communion make of us instruments of communion in today's world! This is the testimony to which we are called.

Let us never forget that the Most Holy Trinity dwells within us. Let us come back again and again to God's presence in our hearts as to the source of life.