Trinity C

MDP of God

I want to start by offering to all the dads a very happy Father’s Day

A year ago I celebrated this day with my dad and the rest of my family—this year of course my dad is celebrating Father’s Day with our Father in heaven

But I think Father’s Day being on the same Sunday as our celebration of the Trinity is providential—*I think these two celebrations can give us a lot of insight into God’s plan of creation*—**on why things are the way they are**

And it can give us great insight into His plan of salvation

When I think of my dad—there were a lot of **relationships** that defined who he was

He was the son of Tom and Kathleen McPhillips—the grandson of James and Rose on his father’s side—and the grandson of James—and I’m embarrassed to say I don’t know my great grandmother’s name on my grandmothers’ side

He was the Brother of Tom—the nephew of Ed and Helen—the cousin of Jimmy

He was the husband of Mary—I told people for years that my parents really loved each other---*they just hid it really well* (they constantly fought and nit picked each other….)—but you know at the end of their lives—they were so loving and kind to each other---it was really very moving [I couldn’t help but think—where was this for last 50 years?]

He was the father of Jay, Pat, Mike and Bridget—the grandfather of Patrick, Shannon, Ian and Julia—the uncle of Kathy, Patty, Maryanne, and Tommy—and the uncle by marriage to all my mom’s nieces and nephews in Ireland

He was the boss of many people at McPhillips plumbing— a friend to Don, Dick, Gene, Joe and Ron and so many others

But notice— *at the center of who he was* **is defined by relationships**

 And my friends—that’s true of all of us

Those of you who are parents and grandparents know--- you live for so many years—and then all of a sudden your life revolves around being “Dad or grandpa”—Mom or grandma”—your whole life revolves around being in relationship with your kids and grandkids

Why is that?---Because you and I are made in the image and likeness of God who is a community of love

When you think of the first person of the Trinity—the Father—He’s creator of heaven and earth---the all-powerful all-knowing Lord of all creation

But those things are things He does—who He is --is “Father”—and He’s been Father for all eternity

You think of Jesus—He’s the savior of the world—He took our sins on Himself so we could be saved—He’s the king of heaven and earth—of angles and of men—of all that is seen and unseen

But those things are all things He does---who He is-- is Son---for all eternity—He is Son— *at the heart of His identity is His relationship to the Father*

And the Holy Spirit of course—is the love of the Father and the Son---the love is so real, so strong, so incredible---that that love is a person—the Holy Spirit

So--the One God is a community of love

And you and I are made in the image and likeness of this community of love—which means we can’t be who we are meant to be unless we are in **right relationship with others**

*Because we’re made to be in community*—**because God is community**

Which is why my friends—a selfish person can never ever ever be happy—why?

Because a selfish person is all about me me me—give me—give me—give me---I want –I want I want

But we see within God—the Father for all eternity has emptied Himself—has poured Himself out in the begetting of the Son

The Son for all eternity—has given of Himself—emptied Himself—poured Himself out in love of the Father---and we of course see that in His humanity on the cross—when He poured Himself out—emptied Himself in love of the Father and love for us

And the Holy Spirit is the bond of love between the Father and the Son

 We see in God—this eternal self-giving love

And we’re made in His image and likeness which is why we can’t find true joy *unless we’re giving ourselves in love*

Most parents will tell you the greatest joy of their lives are their children (most –unfortunately some parents fail to give of themselves in true love—///but I don’t want to dwell on that today)—so ^^^

But most parents will tell you their greatest struggles—heartaches and difficulties come from their children as well

You ‘ve got to get up in the middle of the night to feed them—you have to change their diapers—you have to take care of them when they’re sick—you’ve got to get them ready for school and help them with homework---on and on and on

But parents in givng and giving and giving—are imitating God the Father who emptied Himself—pours Himself out in the begetting of the Son

The best example in literature of this dynamic is Charles Dickens a Christmas Carol----The story of Scrooge and Bob Crathcit and Tiny Tim

Scrooge is rich—he has power—but he’s a miserable unhappy old man—who makes everyone around him miserable

And you have Bob Cratchit who works for Scrooge—so he’s really poor---but in his home there’s real joy—because Bob Cratchit loves his wife—he loves his kids—he loves to carry his handicapped son around on his shoulder—*they’re dirt poor but because their home is filled with love*— they have great joy

My friends—because God is a community of love---He made us to be part of communities of love—especially in the family

 We’re made the way we are because God is who He is

That also gives us insight into His plan of saving us

How does salvation come to us? We receive His saving grace when we’re baptized to becaome a part of God’s family

And we can’t baptize ourselves—we need another person—a member of the Church—to give us that saving grace

How does God’s grace continue to come into our lives? The most important way is when we gather with God’s family—on God’s day—in God’s house—around God’s table—with our brothers and sisters in Christ—to receive the very body and blood soul and divinity of our saving God

God had made it so that His saving grace comes to us in the community of faith—why?

Because God is a community of love—and He made us in His image and likeness

So His saving grace comes to us through the ministry of His Church—and then He calls us to build up His Kingdom—to build up His Family—to build up our brothers and sisters—to build up His Church

And just like with our natural family—the people in God’s family aren’t perfect—but He wants us to love them anyway

In the family we grew up in— parents aren’t perfect—God wants us to love them anyway

 Your kids aren’t perfect—God wants you to love them anyway

Your brothers and sisters aren’t perfect—God wants you lo love them anyway

In God’s family—sometimes peole cut you off in the parking lot—love them anyway

Sometimes the priest babbles on and on and on—love him anyway

Sometimes the musicians pick songs you hate—**sing the songs** *and love them anyway*

God is a community of love—God is love—we can only be who we’re meant to be when we’re in right relationships with others—which means when we’re in loving relationships with others

On this Trinity Sunday—on this Father’s Day—we recognize that we are made the way we are because God is who He is

We’re made to be in right relationships with others—we’re made to love others=we’re made to model God in our families—in our church-in our lives

Let’s be all we were made to be—let’s love one another—let’s give of ourselves in love— let’s glorify God in the way we love Him and love one another---Amen? Amen