Trinity Sunday

MDP of God

In the first book of the bible—the book of Genesis—we’re told that God made the human race in His own image and likeness

 Today’s feast of the Holy Trinity gives us insight into what that means

God has revealed Himself to us to be a community of love—three Divine persons—One God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit

 *We are made the way we are* **because God is who He is**

God made us to share His love with us

So in making our first parents—*they were themselves the result of God’s love*

So in making us God made us male and female---and in His plan a man and woman are united in the sacrament of marriage---and their love for each other gives life

 **In God’s plan each one of us is meant to be love come to life**

That is such a beautiful image for human life

But as God is three persons—but one God---we are all individuals, but we are not meant to just be rugged individualist---we’re meant part of communities of love

That’s what the human family is meant to be—because God is a community of love

 Every family is meant to model God

In our understanding of God---the Father has poured Himself for all eternity in the begetting of the Son

The Son for all eternity has given Himself totally in love for the Father [see that in humanity on the cross]—and the Holy Spirit is the bond of love between the Father and Son—*that love between the Father and Son isn’t just a feeling*—**it’s a person**

So the love between a husband and wife isn’t meant to be just a feeling—*that love is meant to give life*—that love brings children into the world made in God’s image and likeness

The bible tells us of course, that sin came into the world—which led to not only death—but led to divisions and conflict

*Because of sin*—sometimes our families might not represent God well in the world

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The difference between a good family and one that’s not so good---is *in a healthy family the* ***members give of themselves*** *for one another*

 The parents make great sacrifices for their children

 The children give of themselves in helping their parents

The children make sacrifices for the good of their sisters and brothers [toughest one]

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In a family that’s not imaging God well—the parents are more concerned about themselves then their kids

In a family that doesn’t image God well---everyone’s is very concerned if they are doing more than their fair share---the attitude is— “It’s not fair—I have to do this —I have to do that—I always have to do everything”

My friends—the secret of life is—**if you want to be happy**—*you need to love*—**which means you need to be willing to sacrifice for others**

 There’s a connection between sacrifice and love [Mother giving birth….]

If you want to be happy—*you need to be willing to give of yourself for others*—**because that’s at the heart of love**—*and that’s who we are made to be*

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This has all been brought to life for me again during the Covid lockdown

For a couple of months we were told to self-isolate—stay away from others—don’t go out—what was the result?

The United States government has a helpline for people in distress---the calls increased 891% over the year earlier

In Los Angelos—the suicide hotline calls increased 8,000%---not 800-8,000%--80 times as many calls as before the Corvid lockdowns

**Why?** Because we’re not made to be isolated—we’re made to interact with others—we’re made to be together

Why?—Because we’re made in the image and likeness of God who is a community of love

There are grandparents who haven’t hugged their grandkids for months---many of our senior citizens are in nursing home totally isolated from others

 It’s inhuman—it’s contrary to what we are made for

I’m not making political statements--- It’s not my intention to 2nd guess decisions that were made by the state of federal governments in the midst of a crisis

But I am trying to highlight that many of the attitudes of individualism that pervades our culture—the attitudes of, “I’m going to take care of # 1”---the attitude of “I don’t need anyone else, I’m going to do things my way”---those attitudes that is so much a part of our culture today---*are just not healthy*

They’re not healthy emotionally or spiritually---because we are not made to be basically rugged individualists—*we’re made to be loving members of community*

It doesn’t matter if you’re a man or a woman—if you’re young or old—if you’re married or single

*All of us* are made by God with a need for others—with a need to be in a caring community

That’s why God made us to be family—in the family we are meant to be united by bonds of love where the members sacrifice out of love for one another

**We need one another**

The fact that the true God is a community of love and that we are made in His image and likeness impacts everything about us

My friends—there is a lie in our culture right from the pit of hell—that will tell you, “if you want to be happy—you need to take care of number 1”

*But the truth is that people who live selfish lives* **can never be truly happy**—**they can never have abiding joy**

People who are selfish always feel *that they have to do too much*—*they never get enough*—they always want more---and to get more they might lie and steal and use others—in their minds *things are never fair for them*

But folks-- they can never fill the emptiness in them—because they’re made for love—we’re made to give love and to receive love

 Which means they’re ultimately made *for God who is Love*

Which is why St Augustine said in prayer, “Our hearts are restless Lord, until they rest in thee”

*But He made us to love each other as well*—and at the heart of love is **self-sacrifice**—being there for others—doing for others—seeking to build others up

The isolation that has been so much a part of our lives the last few months –and that so many of our senior citizens in nursing homes continue to experience—is so contrary to what we are meant to be

The “me, me, me” attitude that is so much of our culture has led to so much unhappiness—so much loneliness—so much despair [drugs…alcohol--exploitation]

In our 2nd reading today—it says, “encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,..”

So much of the bible is about the way we treat each other—why?

 Because God made us to love—**without love we have nothing**

Love is not a warm fuzzy feeling that you fall into and out of

 Love is a choice—to give yourself for the sake of others [also for God]

[This also points us to God’s plan of salvation—He doesn’t want us to be individual silos just relating personally to Him—In saving us we are meant to be a part of His family—His Church—which is meant to be a community of love giving witness to Him in the world]

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My friends, Love is a choice to image God in the world by the way you give of yourself for others—for your family—for God’s family the Church—for friends—for co-workers—for anyone who happens to come into your life

If we choose to live as a rugged individualist with the “me, me, me” attitude we will never have true happiness----but more importantly---**we will never be what God made us to be**

These months of isolation that so many of us have experienced drives home the point that we are made in the image and likeness of the Divine Trinity—that we are made to be a part of communities of love

If you choose to love—if you choose to sacrifice for others—if you choose the common good over your own personal desires--- **then you can find joy**—then you can find peace—then you can be a true image of God in the world

My friends –let’s strive to image our God of love in our lives by the way we love one another—Amen? Amen