

JUNE 7, 2020  
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
John 3: 16-18

“THE RELATIONSHIP OF THREE IS LOVE”

This Sunday, we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This is significant in my priesthood because I was ordained a priest on the eve of this solemnity 25 years ago in 1995. I will never forget this feast as I always recall my maxim/motto when I was ordained: “You did not choose me but I chose you.”<sup>1</sup> The Holy Trinity gave me an opportunity to answer that call to be of service to God and His people and I thank God for this.

We have a saying that two is company, three is a crowd. It is easy to deal with two people than to a group of people most especially people who are annoying and unhelpful. But our celebration today teaches us otherwise. The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity gives a glimpse of God wherein all are possible. How can three persons be one God? In the Sacred Scriptures, we can find the number three with significant meanings. “The figure three symbolises completeness and perfect symmetry, and re-appears at all the key moments of the Christ story. His life itself constantly reflected the Trinity. Three figures make up the nativity scene in Bethlehem — the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their first visitors were the three wise men. Later, in the desert preparing to begin his public life, Jesus was tempted three times by the devil. A good story should have a beginning, a middle and an end. Christ was a storyteller par excellence and three figures prominently in his parables. The Prodigal Son is about a father and his two sons; the Good Samaritan tells of the behaviour of three passers-by, the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan; the sower sowed his seed in three different types of terrain, yielding three different levels of harvest. The end of his life, as the beginning, has again the three motifs. During his Passion, Peter denied him thrice. On the road to Calvary, he fell three times.

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<sup>1</sup> John 15: 16 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

The crucifixion scene has three figures, Christ between two thieves. Before his resurrection, he spent three days in the tomb.”<sup>2</sup> We can see here that three is not a crowd but a gesture of love, friendship, and compliment and support for one another.

The Holy Trinity is the manifestation that God is love. “There are Three Persons in the Trinity, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. Together they represent the fullness of love. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father. The Holy Spirit is their love for each other. We are made in the image of a triune God. God the Father, who created us, his Son who saved us, and the Holy Spirit who continues to guide us.”<sup>3</sup>

My sisters and brothers, what is the lesson this solemnity is teaching us: we are product of love so we must be the reflection and instrument of love for one another. We are called to imitate, follow and be good example of love because in love, through love and by love, we become sons and daughters of God. Our lives must mirror the Blessed Trinity, the fullness of love. We should be always innovative, effective, and creative like the Father, caring, considerate, and compassionate like the Son, and share, give, and dispose our gifts, capacities, and talents in the service of others like the Holy Spirit. We must be the reflection of the Blessed Trinity, that is, we must radiate and shine with and through love. So, my sisters and brothers, love today and always.

Let this be our prayer: “God our Father re-create in us Your initial purpose, that is, to love You more than all things here on earth so that we may be good and faithful servants of Your Son, and filled us with the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Amen.”

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<sup>2</sup> [www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*