



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Trinity (B)
May 30, 2021

The Mission of the Trinity

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The very first fresco Raphael painted for Pope Julius II, *The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament*, includes a representation of the Trinity. Christian iconography commonly depicted the Godhead as a triangle with the all-seeing eye in the center, often with rays of glory flooding forth. Yet Raphael chooses to make it much more personal, more real. He depicts the three persons of the Trinity.

God is not merely an idea, a first principle, or a mental criterion for moral choosing, but three real divine persons, each one active in your life. A triune

God, an eternal explosion of love in which the Father begins by creating you; the Son continues by saving you; and the Holy Spirit consumes their love by inspiring and sanctifying you.

Although all things change, God never changes. He is still, the point of the pendulum from which all things hang and are supported. He wisely governs with his one hand lifted in authoritative and assuring purpose. In his other hand, the sphere of the world rests secure. His decisions are not arbitrary, swayed by public opinion, or motivated by insecurity needing affirmation. He is who is. It is we who need him and not the other way around.

Yet, his absolute authority doesn't convert him into an aloof despot. God lovingly takes interest in everything! Nothing is unimportant—from the greatest things on earth to the smallest minutiae of my day. If it is important to me, it is important to him, and his providential hand keeps it all in balance. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

God loves each one of us even when we make mistakes and distance ourselves from him. God the Father loves the world so much that, in order to save it, he gives what is most precious to him: his only-begotten Son....The Trinity is therefore love, wholly at the service of the world.

—Angelus, Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020



Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

Ask from one end of the sky to the other: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of?

Romans 8:14–17

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- The Trinity shares their life with me through grace. Do I care for that gift in my soul?
- In the Holy Trinity the Father creates, the Son saves, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies. Do I thank each for these gifts?

Called to Follow Jesus

By Johan van Parys

Every time I sit at the desk in my home office, I glance at the small crucifix lying on it—a simple wooden cross with a small metal corpus. It was given to me by one of the late abbots of the Benedictine abbey of Mont César in Leuven, Belgium. He had received it from the late Bishop Boleslavs Sloskans, a Latvian national who had secretly been ordained a bishop in 1926 for a diocese in the former Soviet Union.

When authorities found out, he was arrested and sent to a Soviet work camp. He managed to keep a small crucifix during his imprisonment. At the beginning of World War II, Bishop Sloskans found refuge at Mont César, where he spent the rest of his life. The crucifix rested on his desk at Leuven until it was passed down to the abbot.

I remember the day father abbot gave it to me with great clarity. It was the day I decided not to become a priest. I had always wanted to be a priest, thinking that I had the calling. In prayer, I heard Jesus say, “Come and follow me,” which I understood to mean “become a priest.” When I turned seventeen, I applied to our local seminary; thus began a circuitous trajectory in and out of seminaries until I finally decided that I must not have *the calling*.



That was a difficult moment. I visited the abbot who was my spiritual director and said that I was sad not to have “the calling.” He said that while I may not be called to be a priest, surely I am called to follow Christ. The latter, he continued, is much more important than the former.

He then recounted the life of Bishop Sloskans and gave me the small crucifix. He explained that what made Bishop Sloskans such a great Christian was not his calling to the priesthood, but the way he lived out his calling to follow Christ

wherever he found himself—even in prison.

At that moment I realized that I had received the calling—maybe not to be a priest, but to follow Jesus. There is no higher or better calling. There is only one calling, and it is the one Jesus addresses to each of us: “Come and follow me.”

The way each of us lives out this calling can be very different. Mostly it is informed by our personal strengths and talents. Yet in the end, our fundamental calling as Christians is to become more and more like Christ regardless of who we are, where we live, or what we do.

Every time I glance at the simple crucifix, I think of Bishop Sloskans and I am reminded of his commitment to Christ. His example, like that of many saints, is an inspiration to us all.

Let us pray daily for the grace to be faithful to our calling as followers of Christ—no matter where life’s path takes us. +

PRAYER

Lord, you command me to love all people. Remove the prejudice that keeps me from loving my brothers and sisters.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter* through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

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WEEKDAY READINGS

May 31-June 5

Monday,
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Zep 3:14–18a or Rom 12:9–16 / Lk 1:39–56

Tuesday, St. Justin:
Tb 2:9–14 / Mk 12:13–17

Wednesday, Weekday:
Tb 3:1–11a, 16–17a / Mk 12:18–27

Thursday, St. Charles Lwanga and Companions:
Tb 6:10–11; 7:1bcd, 9–17; 8:4–9a
Mk 12:28–34

Friday, Weekday: Tb 11:5–17 / Mk 12:35–37

Saturday, St. Boniface: Tb 12:1, 5–15, 20
Mk 12:38–44

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