

HOMILY ~ TRINITY SUNDAY

June 11/12, 2022

*The world is made of music,
Never ending symphonies of sound surround us,
Miracles of melody abound around us too,
It's a musical world.*

It is a musical world, and the possibilities of making music are almost infinite. And I love music! Music is with us most of the time whether you are aware of it or not. Sometimes we purposely turn on music when we stream, turn on the radio or listen to a CD. Frequently after it is on for a while, it becomes background and we are not very conscious of it. We usually play music in the car. When we go to the store, there is likely music playing in the background. We may be hearing music in the elevator. There is always music in movies and TV shows. And if you are like me, you may have some music playing in your head. You know how music can sometimes get stuck in your mind? Whether you are aware of it, music can have a profound effect on our mood and emotions. God is like that. He is with us all of the time, whether we are aware of his presence or not. He can have a profound effect on us, particularly if we are open to his presence.

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The Trinity is a difficult doctrine to understand. I am going to attempt today to explain the doctrine of Trinity by comparing it to music. So stay with me on this. There are three things that are necessary to have music. First of all, you have to have the composer. You have to have that person who is creative and inspired to create. I see God the Father as the creator who set everything in motion. Next you have to have notes. Until you have notes, it is just something in the composer's head. I see God the Son as the notes. The Word made flesh. The invisible God made visible in the world. Next you have to have a melody. The notes have to be in a certain order and held for different amounts of time to add the rhythm. I see the Holy Spirit as that creative source behind the melody, that creative source that gives the composer and the

notes their feeling and expression. To have music, you have to have all three: the composer, the notes and the melody. If any of these are missing, you do not have music. You can talk about them separately, but you have to have them all to have music. It is similar with the Trinity: Three persons, one God. You can talk about them separately; but when one is present, they are all present. We do not have God without all three.

The fact that God is three persons, one God is very important. We are created in the image and likeness of God. We are relational by nature. Within God, there are three persons in relationship with one another. The Father loves the Son unconditionally, the Son loves the Father unconditionally and that outpouring of love creates the Holy Spirit. That is why we need to be in relationship with one another. We cannot live and do well in isolation.

God is love. Love is something that must be shared. You cannot love by yourself. That is narcissism, or one-sided affection, but it is not love. Love is somehow incomplete unless it is given away. The three persons of the Trinity are giving this love away freely to one another. The love that exists between the three persons of the Trinity is a perfect love. If we are really lucky in our lives, we have experienced mutual love. This is the situation where I totally and unconditionally give my love and myself to someone else, and they do the same in return. This can be very difficult due to our human limitations. We tend to become jealous, insecure, envious or just scared of the intimacy and withdraw. But when we experience mutual love, it is great. What becomes even more difficult is allowing a third person in to share equally in the love. It is hard enough for me and my best friend to get along at times. To let a third person in, not as an outsider, but to share equally in the love compounds the problem even more. However, this is a more perfect love. This is the love which exists between the three persons of the Trinity. We can all participate in this perfect love of the Trinity. God will let us in.

Today on this Trinity Sunday, remember how important our relationships are in our lives. We cannot live without them. And know that we can participate in the unconditional love of God. He will let us in.

Love & Peace,

Fr. Jim