Homily for the Holy Trinity Sunday(6/16/2019)

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Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Right after Easter Season, we are truly in the great mysteries of the Catholic faith: Last week, Pentecost Sunday, this week, the Trinity Sunday, and next week, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The mystery of the Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. We believe there is one God who is three persons. The word ‘trinity’ means ‘three in one unity.’

God revealed Himself as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity cannot be fully comprehended by the human mind. It is a mystery. So, St. Augustine said, “How do I suppose that with my small head, I can comprehend the immensity of God?”

One day, when St. Augustine was walking along the shore of the ocean, he came upon a young boy carrying a large sea conch. As St. Augustine watched, the boy came to the edge of the ocean, filled his seashell with water, then ran and poured the ocean water into a hole he had dug in the sand. Over and over, the boy filled the conch shell and poured the water into the hole.

St. Augustine asked the boy, “What are you doing?” The young boy answered, “I am putting the ocean into this hole.” The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is about as difficult as putting the ocean into a small hole in the sand.

As St. Augustine said, we may not be able to understand the ‘how’ of the Trinity, but it is more important to understand the ‘why.’ Why did God reveal Himself to us the mystery of Trinity? And, what does this mystery mean to our lives?

The mystery of the Holy Trinity tells a dynamic relationship between God and us. At different times of our life, we relate more deeply to the Father or to the Son or to the Holy Spirit. God is the living God, and He is present right now here. We experience His presence in many different ways as the Father, as the Son, and as the Holy Spirit.

We experience God the Father in the miracle of creation, and in the miracles of providences as God guides our life. As Father, God manifests His life-giving power, His majesty, and transcendence through creation.

And, we experience God the Son when we know Jesus Christ. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, laid in a manger, nailed to the cross, and risen from the dead. God the Son showed us the Father’s love. He suffered and died for us. As Son, God shows Himself as our Redeemer, a Savior. He taught us how to live in love and die in peace as we journey to our eternal home in heaven.

And, when Christ went back to His Father in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with us forever. To continue to make God’s divine love present, God the Holy Spirit inspires our hearts. God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit make a dynamic and active relationship with us in our daily lives.

In the Holy Trinity, we find perfect and self-giving love. The three persons of the Holy Trinity are united as one by bonds of love. Love binds three persons so that three become one. Like the Holy Trinity, three unique persons becoming one, we unique individual persons link ourselves to God and to each other by bonds of love. Because we are in God’s image, our natural tendency is to be loving.

We can be fully human only in a relationship of love with God and with other people. We cannot live alone. We are always in relationships with God and with one other, and we are to love and help one other. It is our nature. And, it is the nature of the Holy Trinity.

As God is love, so we are love. When we love each other, we enter into the mystery of the Holy Trinity. When we show love and care to friends and family, when we bring love and compassion to the neighbors, there, we participate in the mystery of the Holy Trinity. When husband and wife love each other, there is a third person, the child. When parents love and sacrifice for their children, they enter into the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

We enter the mystery of Trinity in our lives with a sacrificing love and by sharing love with one other. That is the way to be truly human, that is the way to God, the Holy Trinity, and that is the way to eternal happiness in heaven. This is how the concept of Trinity can be meaningful in our lives.

Today, we celebrate the Trinity not as an abstract dogma, but as an active presence of God in our lives. It is a deeply liberation truth to realize that God is not far away. He is close to us in many ways as the Father, as the Son, and as the Holy Spirit. That is the wonderful truth of the Holy Trinity for us. And, love one another. Help and sacrifice for each other. That is the way of Christian life to participate the Divine Mystery of the Holy Trinity!