

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, May 22, 2016

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

THE TRINITY CONNECTION

"It has no connection with real life." That criticism is often directed at what takes place at Mass on Sunday. For some people the Sunday liturgy and the homily are just "churchy" things disconnected from the real issues of our day and unrelated to the lives of ordinary people.

Individuals with such an opinion might think their point of view was justified if they came to Mass this Sunday.

This Sunday as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we celebrate our belief that the one God we worship is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three divine persons, one God.

The liturgy will proclaim that message and homilists will step into the pulpit and attempt to give some insight into this central mystery of our Christian Faith. If the truth be told, in most cases this mystery will be just as esoteric after the homily ends as it was before the preaching began.

However, professing, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty...and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord...I believe in Holy Spirit" is connected with our lives and with the issues of our day.

If we are made in the image and likeness of God, a God whom we profess to be a community of persons, then we are made for community. We are made for a relationship with God and relationships with one another. Such relationships entail responsibilities and obligations.

That insight is increasingly lacking in our society where individualism, narcissism, and self-centeredness hold sway and bring about what Pope Francis calls "a throwaway culture."

If we see ourselves as the center of the universe, those with whom we have no connection, no relationship, have no value in our eyes. The unborn child, the homeless migrant, the unemployed single mother, the elderly veteran wasting away in a nursing home, the teenager in a failed city school, the Christians persecuted for daring to profess the name of Jesus, are not our concern.

Yet if we look at the Holy Trinity in whose image we are made, we see we are made for relationships and made to interact with one another in a dynamic and creative way as do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 16:12-15), Jesus promises that "when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

The truth we need to appreciate more than ever in our day is that we are not made to live in our isolated little worlds, unconcerned for others. We are made to be part of a caring, loving, life-giving community in whose image we have been made.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity we are not celebrating something disconnected from life, but what is essential to human life – a relationship with God and relationships with all those made in God's image.

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