



Homily for  
THE THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  
21/22 May, 2016

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Fr. Dwayne's homily follows....

*"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.*

*But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."*

I. Do you like secrets?

- is a secret annoying to you? Do you have a need to know? Will you actively try to find out what the secret is?

- or is a secret intriguing to you? Do you look for clues as to what it may be?

Are you content to live with a secret? Perhaps telling yourself that in time you will learn what it is?

II. Today – as we celebrate this Solemnity of the Trinity – we may find ourselves

puzzling over what this means – it might feel like a secret: Jesus tells us, "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now." It sounds like Jesus is keeping a secret, but more often we refer to, we think of, the Holy Trinity as a Mystery.

- but there are clues all around us as to what this secret is...this Mystery that is all about us

A. The author of the Book of Proverbs invites us to look to the wisdom of God which was present even before the creation of the world: “from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth.”

- the wisdom of God was present even before the fountains and springs of water, before the mountains, before the hills – even when the Lord established the heavens and fixed fast the foundations of the earth.

- we observe the created world – we realize that somehow it all fits together, it works together – but we don’t really understand how it all works. Instead, we are invited to look beyond the surface of nature and see God’s creative action

B. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul invites us to reflect upon the nature of salvation: of how we have been justified by faith...of how, through faith, we gain access to the grace of God. Paul reminds us the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

- there is a dynamic going on here between heaven and earth. How is it we have been pulled up into this dynamic? How is it we – you and I – get to experience this salvation?

III. Jesus speaks to us of these secrets: too much for us to understand right now, but

more will be revealed as time goes along.

“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.”

- Secrets are fun! They hold the promise of surprise...joy...fulfillment beyond our wildest imagination. Secrets give us the promise to delight in what is yet to come.

IV. So what are the clues around you which tell you of the mystery of God?

- do they come to you in the marvelous, mysterious workings of nature?

- or in human relationships? In friendship? In marriage? In love? In the very mystery of the human person?

- and how can reliance upon the working of the Spirit lead you to explore more deeply, to discover more fully, the mysterious presence of God in your life?

V. It is okay to have secrets – to live with secrets – especially if they come from God!

Such secrets give us something more to explore and discover.

This Solemnity of the Trinity invites us into a loving appreciation of God. On this

day we can give thanks to God for all that is – and what is yet to be. Each of us is capable of celebrating this day as a feast of God’s great love for us.

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**Fr. Kyle’s homily follows....**

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. You are all probably in trouble because my worst grade in seminary was in my class on the Holy Trinity. So today I am going to preach about grace which St. Thomas defines as “the indwelling or life of the Trinity within us”. But

what does it mean for us to receive grace? What does it mean to have the Trinity living in our soul?

St. Thomas speaks of a couple different types of grace:

1. Actual grace is a temporary help or strength that the Trinity gives us in a particular moment when we need His help to do the loving thing. For instance, when we are driving down Central and someone cuts us off, God can give us Actual Grace not to stick our hand out the window and “wave at them with one finger”, as my grandpa would say. Instead we have the Actual Grace to keep calm and forgive that person.
2. Sanctifying grace, on the other hand, is not temporary but the enduring presence of the Trinity in our soul. This presence actually adds to and transforms our soul. When we are born, we are good and natural human beings, but through baptism we are transformed into something supernatural by this Sanctifying Grace. It is the indwelling of the Holy Trinity in our soul that transforms us into more than just natural human beings; it allows us to be like God, to shine forth with a supernatural light. It is this supernatural light that God has created us to live with. He did not make us for anything less.

Let me give an analogy. The stained glass windows in this church do a good job of being ordinary windows even at night when there is no sun to shine through them. But the creator of these windows did not make them just sit in the darkness and be like ordinary windows. He created them to be transformed by the light of the sun to be extraordinary and beautiful.

God has created us to be filled with the light of grace, the presence of the Holy Trinity to be living tabernacles walking around the world spreading the love of Christ. But we can reject His grace. We can be like a window hidden in darkness which is never filled with light and failing to shine with extraordinary light and love.

This is where St. Thomas’ teaching on Sanctifying grace and actual grace come together. We need to be transformed by the Trinity dwelling in us so that we have the actual grace to love our children even when they don’t seem to love us; to forgive a spouse when they “forget” to

fold the laundry again; to persevere when we experience illness for ourselves or for a loved one. It is God's grace that can transform us from the ordinary into something extra ordinary.

As we are privileged to marvel at the beauty of the windows in this Church filled with the light of the sun, may we open our hearts to be filled with the grace of the Son of God.