



TRINITY SUNDAY

CYCLE C

Proverbs 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

GATHERING

(Three unlit candles and two tapers or some extra matches stand on a table in the gathering place.)

The Scripture readings throughout the season of Lent, Easter and Pentecost, have taught us about God, Father, Son and Spirit. This week, we reflect on the Triune God, one God in three persons. *(Members take a few moments to share how they witnessed to the presence of the Spirit in their lives this past week through their sharing of forgiveness with others.)*

OPENING PRAYER

(The facilitator lights two of the candles on the table. After a few moments of silence, the leader asks two members to light the two tapers/matches from the two candles already lighted. Then together, they light the third candle. As needed, the facilitator describes the practice often seen at weddings of the lighting of the unity candle and how it represents both the individuality and unity, which are meant to come to expression in marriage.)

Leader: Lord, God, in faith we profess your glory as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons, one eternal God. In love

you are united and share your goodness with all creation. Your love is our life and our salvation. It is your gift to us. Surrounded by your love, O Triune God, may we live united with you and with our sisters and brothers.

All: Amen.

Focus Question

Recall a time when you felt especially close with God and with the members of your family. What were the circumstances surrounding this experience?

SCRIPTURE SHARING AND REFLECTIONS

(The scriptures are proclaimed aloud with a pause between readings.)

Commentary

The flow of today's Scriptures put us in touch with the ones such as, the Wisdom of God, the gift of the Spirit, and finally, the relationship between the Father and the Son. Together then, these scriptures focus our attention on the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a relationship of giving and sharing, a relationship of love.

Our lives are lived in the shadow of the Trinity. Blessings are called down in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism, the sacrament of initiation, is administered in the names of the Trinity. In the Eucharist we are united to the Son's sacrificial self-giving to the Father in union with the Holy Spirit. In the sacrament of Reconciliation sin is forgiven in the same Trinitarian invocation. The sacrament of the sick is likewise administered. The life of the Christian begins and ends in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Love is at the very core of the Trinity. "The feast is only a feast if we follow the lead of the assigned scriptures and acclaim a God of love, not dissect an arcane theological treatise".¹ Our life is to be lived in that spirit of love: love for God and love for neighbor.

¹ Study Text 9 from the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, p. 60, as quoted in *Celebration* (June, 1995), p. 242. *Celebration*, P.O. Box 419493, Kansas City, MO 64141.

Little Joey is seven years old. He is handicapped mentally and physically. He is unable to speak but makes known his wants and needs through grunts and whimpers. His motor skills are limited to a few faltering steps. In spite of his handicap, Joey appears to be healthy, happy and content. His parents hold and cuddle him. They stroke his hair and rub his back. They do all the things, which Joey needs and wants – all the things, which make him happy. They shower him with gifts of hugs and kisses and love. Their gifts are never unwanted or unneeded.

The outside observer might ask, “Why”. For Joey’s mom and dad, no question is asked. No answer is needed. Their limitless love is always outpouring. If only that love was reciprocal – what joy would come to their hearts! But it does not come.

That is true love, a love that is self-giving, a love whose focus is totally the other and not the self. That is a parent’s love. It is like the generosity of the love, which we celebrate in this feast of the Holy Trinity.

Creation, redemption and salvation come from a shared experience of *divine love*. Living in that relationship of love with God, we are called to reach out to our sisters and brothers in that same spirit of love!

And the transforming love of Father, Son and Spirit is so strong that Joey, too, will someday also be freed to fully express his love!

FAITH SHARING AND INTEGRATION

1. Mention a time when you were separated from your family or friends or a loved one. What was it like to be alone? What was it like to be reunited?
2. When have you felt distanced from God? Were you able to share these feelings with anyone? What was it like to talk about these feelings? How did the other person respond? How were you able to work through this feeling of separation? What resolved this sense of separation into a sense of being re-connected?
3. Recall a particular time when there was a feeling of unity within your family. What brought about this unity? What role did each

family member play? What role did you play? How can you be a unifying force within your family today?

RESPONSE IN ACTION

1. If your living circumstances allow it, organize a *family get-together Sunday*. The family could gather at church to share in the Eucharist together. After liturgy, members could gather for a potluck brunch. Everyone could be invited to bring one family-related photograph and share one story of family life with the others.
2. If there has been a division within your family, work to foster forgiveness, acceptance and reconciliation. Begin by working with those family members who would be of a like mind. Together you can pray and reach out to other family members.
3. Encourage and participate in the planting of a community garden, the fruits of which will be given to an area shelter.

SENDING FORTH AND CLOSING PRAYER

(The community pauses for a few minutes of quiet reflection.)

Leader: Lord God, we honor you, a Trinity of Persons, one Eternal God. Your love as Father, Son and Spirit is seen in your works of creation and redemption and sanctification. We are the work of your hand, the fruit of your love. May we ever be mindful of your love for us by reaching out to others in your same spirit of love.

All: Amen.

(Members stand, join hands and pray the Lord's Prayer. The session concludes with the exchange of a sign of peace.)