

Trinity Sunday

May 22, 20116

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. It is also the very first time we celebrate this special day as a parish, our parish feast day. Although the words, "holy trinity" are not found in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments clearly refer to God as a Tri-unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We ponder this deep mystery, the trinity, three persons in one God.

There is a story that St. Augustine was walking on the beach contemplating the mystery of the Trinity. Then he saw a boy in front of him who had dug a hole in the sand and was going out to the sea again and again and bringing some water to pour into the hole. St. Augustine asked him, "What are you doing?" "I'm going to pour the entire ocean into this hole." "That is impossible, the whole ocean will not fit in the hole you have made" said St. Augustine. The boy replied, "And you cannot fit the Trinity in your tiny little brain." The story concludes by saying that the boy vanished because St. Augustine had been talking to an angel.

It is interesting to note that the most basic tenet of our faith is so hard to understand. Simply put, the Holy Trinity is one God in three persons who each share the same essence of deity, a God who existed before all. God is the absolute compound unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three persons in one divine essence, beautiful beyond description, too marvelous for words. Think of a triangle – it has three corners, but it is still one triangle.

"O Father who sought me

O Son who bought me

O Holy Spirit who taught me."

This Celtic prayer expresses beautifully the different qualities of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. As stated in the psalm, "O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!"

This afternoon/morning we focus on just one of the important aspects of the trinity, love and unity. The trinity is three persons in one God who live in perfect love and harmony. The love and unity of the trinity are a gift to us, given freely without bound or measure. They provide an example for us to live out our faith. May I suggest that we live our lives one cup at a time, pouring out a portion of the love and unity of the trinity. Every time we pour out a cup of kindness by welcoming and greeting each other. Every time we pour a cup of consideration by building each other up in Christ rather than participating in gossip or division. Every time we pour a cup of sacrifice for our families or the good of others. Every time we pour a cup of

generosity by returning a portion of the blessings we have received through our time, talent and treasure. Every time we pour a cup of compassion in this church when we celebrate a funeral or participate in a funeral luncheon. Every time we pour a cup of mercy through one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy. Every time we pour a cup of hope by sharing with others what God has done for us, our families and our community. May the members of this parish continue to pour a cup of love at a time, the “love of God poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Another aspect is unity. Unity is a precious commodity often absent from the daily experience of our lives. Unity gives us hope, gives us direction, gives us purpose. May I suggest that we experience unity every time we celebrate as a faith community. Our presence at each and every Eucharistic feast shows that we believe, that we place a priority on celebrating together, that we care for the other members of Holy Trinity Parish. We experience unity every time we celebrate a transitional event in the presence of God and the faith community, our baptisms, our marriages. Today our graduates have come before this community to celebrate a wonderful accomplishment, graduation. We welcome you, we are grateful for you, and we wish you the very best as you begin the next chapter of your lives. One of the greatest unifying factors for our parish is our school, St. Michael School. 315 W. Center St., Linwood, MI 48634 Our school begins its 100th year this fall, a treasure in Northern Bay County, a beacon of academic excellence and Christian values. The first year of our school was 1917. It is strong, it is vibrant, it has great teachers and staff. It is a beacon of hope in a world that is eroding our Christian values. There are many in our parish who are fourth generation in our school. Our parishioners have always been very generous in their financial and moral support for this most important pillar of our parish. Finally, we celebrate unity in the very name and identify of our parish, our symbol behind me created especially for our parish, our mission clearly stated in our bulletin each and every week. We hope and pray that we will continue to strive to appreciate the immensity and the breadth of the name we selected and approved by our Bishop.

So as we celebrate for the very first time as a parish the feast day of being Holy Trinity Parish we may remember the incomprehensible mystery of the Holy Trinity, especially love and unity. May we pour that love and unity one cup at a time to each other. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.