

Prov 8: 22-31

Psalm 8

Rom 5: 1-5

Jn 16: 12-15

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“Receive and Become”

We gather on this Solemnity of the Holy Trinity to honor God who is Father, Son, and Spirit. What does this feast tell us about God, and about ourselves who have been baptized in the Trinity?

It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world – those who give and those who take. Perhaps there are really three kinds of people; the third group being those who are willing to RECEIVE. To receive something is altogether different from taking. Taking implies that one has earned or deserves something, believing - as the saying goes, “I’ve worked hard for this”. But to receive something is to acknowledge that I don’t necessarily deserve that which is offered to me. Rather, I recognize that what is offered is gift.

Today’s celebration is about RECEIVING. This feast of the Holy Trinity is an opportunity for us to RECEIVE the mystery of who God is, and to ponder who we are called to BECOME in God.

What is the gift we are called to RECEIVE and BECOME? It is simply the self-sacrificing love reflected to us in the three persons of the Trinity. The relationship of the Father and the Son and the Father and the Spirit is one of abundant love. Theologians and spiritual authors speak of the Trinity as a community of persons, perfect in harmony and relationship. And into this communal love relationship we have been drawn through our baptism. On a very practical level, then, this feast invites us to ask where and how in our lives we can reflect self-sacrificing love to one another. What a privilege and challenge God has entrusted to the likes of us!

After this homily, we will make our Profession of Faith, as we do every Sunday. This prayer of the Church acknowledges God as Father, Son, and Spirit. In the latter part of this prayer, we acknowledge the Holy Spirit as the “Lord and giver of Life”. As you and I pray these words again and again, we are invited to ask ourselves: Is the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of my life and your life? In our second reading, Paul reminds us that “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit”. Do we believe this? Prayerfully listening to the presence of the Spirit within us enables us to receive what God desires to give us.

In this Eucharist and every Eucharist, our God comes to us in Word and in sacrament. Our task is to always be open to receive the mystery of God’s love, and, in turn, to become that which we receive. May the presence of the Trinity dwelling in us, lead us all to greater love of one another.

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