

Homily

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

June 16, 2019

I played football in high school. Well, to be honest, I practiced with the team, I dressed for games and I got into the game maybe three or four plays as part of the special teams. But I got my letter just the same.

In college, I played intramural football. That was rough enough for me; no pads, but we tackled the guy with the ball; we blocked hard, with no pads. It was a lot of fun, rough, but fun.

One game I remember was very wet. It rained most the game and the field was sloppy. We were slipping and sliding more often than running, especially when trying to turn the corner or cut back to follow the ball across the field. By the end of the game, we were sliding head-first into the mud just for fun. After the game, you couldn't tell what color our shirts were; we were covered head to toe in mud. The only color you could see was the whites of our eyes and the toothy smiles on our face. We all had fun like a bunch of kids on the playground. We were laughing and sharing the experience for days.

Similarly, I remember my two sons playing on the slide after a rainstorm. They kept climbing up and sliding down into the muddy water puddle at the bottom. They couldn't run fast enough and were slipping and sliding all around. Their mother and I were giddy enjoying ourselves as we watched our sons play. By the time they were done, they were covered head to toe in mud and smiles.

I imagine that was what it was like for Jesus, the second person of our one triune God, when He was creating the universe. Imagine Jesus as "His (Father's) craftsman, His delight day by day." This is how creation was described to us from Proverbs in the first reading. Imagine Jesus, at the direction of the Father, sculpting the earth, digging up the earth where the oceans would be, building up the mountains and then placing all the animals, plants and things all around the earth, giggling with delight along the way.

And imagine God the Father watching with delight as He sees His son, playfully sculpting His creation, gleefully molding the surface of the earth, building up the mountains and digging out the seas.

God the Father created everything, heaven and earth. He wasn't created; He is the source of all creation, of all that exists, physical and spiritual, angel and human, plants, rocks and animals – the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, things that walk the land.

God the Son is the instrument of God the Father's creation, the only begotten son of the Father, begotten before everything else, because He made all things by the Father's command.

God the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, not begotten, the Spirit who is one with the Father and the Son, the Giver of Life.

Each is a unique person, all three are one God. The common thread of these three persons and one God is creation; each has a part in creation.

And we, as creations of our God, participate in that creation. Each time someone writes a book, or makes a meal, or builds a house, we are creating. And we create most specially when we participate in creating another human.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. We are baptized in the name of the Most Holy Trinity. We sign ourselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the three in one. We state our belief in the trinity when we profess our faith in the Nicene Creed: I believe in God the Father; I believe in God the Son; I believe in God the Holy Spirit.

In and through that belief, we acknowledge God as creator. And in all we do, we actively participate in God's creation. Shouldn't we, like God, be joyful, even giddy, in all we do? Not only are we made in His image, we are called to be like Him.

Let's take time this week to pray for strength and compassion and wisdom – to love as God loves, to create as we are able by the gifts He has given, and to grow in our faith.

That last one, grow in our faith, has a lot of possibilities. We grow in our faith through following God's command; to love Him and each other. We grow in our faith by using the gifts He has given us; if we have the gift of building things, build things well and for the glory of God; if we have the gift of service, serve in love and charity fully. And we grow in our faith by asking God for help; we cannot do it alone.

It takes a lot of faith to make it to the finish line. Remember that the earth we live in is not what God has in store for us. We are pilgrims here on our way to a bliss we can only imagine. And by the Grace of God, we will continue to grow in our faith to become what God truly has created us to be. When we do, we will be giddy with joy and join into the delight of the Father just as He delights in His Son with the Holy Spirit.