

Homily  
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
June 4, 2023

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

And before this, God created the universe and everything in it, including us. God, outside of time and space, created the known universe, the galaxies, the stars in the sky, the planets around the sun, the oceans and the land, all the animals, in the sea, in the air and on the land, and He created us.

I heard a story about God as He created the universe, and especially us. The angels gathered around and saw His great creation. They saw everything. Some gasped, others cried, some shook their heads in disbelief. One of the angels asked God, “Why, when they are going to reject you and hurt you and kill you. Why?”

And God said, “Because I love them.”

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

What humility. God created time and space, and we in it. And we ran amok. And we are still running amok. He loves us anyway. We rejected Him; He loves us anyway. We hurt Him; He loves us anyway. We killed Him; He loves us anyway.

Not only did God give us His only Son, but His Son died for us, destroying death and restoring life; He gave us His Body and Blood as nourishment; He sent His Spirit as our advocate in spite of our failings. Yes, Jesus humbled Himself, accepting even death, death on a cross.

What humility, the God of the Universe lowering Himself down to become one of us, born in a manger, a man like us, working with His hands to support His mother. Allowing Himself to be lowered from the cross and laid in a tomb. Descending to the dead. And then rising only to continually offer Himself on the altar as the one true sacrifice, the one true Lamb.

He allows Himself to become food for us in the appearances of simple bread and wine, commanding us to eat His flesh and drink His blood, “For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” – John 3:55

He remains in our tabernacles around the world until He is taken out, distributed to the people in the Church and put back in those tabernacles.

What humility to constantly lower himself for us in every way.

Humility, according to Merriam-Webster, is freedom from pride or arrogance. I’ve never heard of anyone describing our Lord as prideful or arrogant. Yet aren’t we often prideful or arrogant?

Humility to me means keeping my eyes on another, not so much on myself. When I keep my eyes on me, I'm being selfish. I would never describe Jesus as selfish. Yet, are we often selfish in what we say and how we act?

Jesus is the epitome of humility.

And Jesus tells us that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father. That same guy who sent His only Son.

Jesus also tells us to be perfect, just as His Father is perfect. To be like Jesus, to be like the Father, we must be perfectly humble.

God knew when He created us that we would fail, we would fall. And He still loves us.

John's Gospel is telling us that, in spite of our failings, God loves us. All we have to do is believe in Him. And to believe in Him, we must believe in what He said, follow His example, follow His commandments. And if we do, we will not be condemned.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, all working together in love for one another and in love for us. God created us; God saves us; God sanctifies us.

So how can we be more humble? In the first reading, Moses, "bowed down to the ground in worship." He didn't demand, but humbly and gently said, "If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company."

If asked, I would say that I'm a humble person. But am I really?

Getting upset when someone tries to cut in front of me isn't humble; it reminds me of how selfish and controlling I can be.

When I'm engaged in a conversation and I'm only thinking about what I'm going to say next instead of listening completely and intentionally isn't humble; it demonstrates how I'm more interested in what I have to say than what the other person is saying.

When I see someone successfully doing something I believe I can do better instead of praising and congratulating that someone isn't humble; it's prideful and arrogant and greedy.

When I'm sharing stories with my wife of how I believe I've been slighted, she reminds me of how I'm not all that, except in my wee little mind.

There are many ways to curb our pride caused by our failed human nature and embrace our God-given inclination to love and be humble. The first is to stop saying "I." In my all-too-real and personal examples of my own arrogance, I find that I couldn't stop saying "I." We begin by looking at the other person.

When the car cuts in front of me, I pray for them that they may get to their destination safely and that their day goes well.

While listening to someone, I listen, really listen, consider their viewpoint, respect their position, put myself in their shoes, and let them finish without considering my response. Sometimes silence is okay.

Look for opportunities to praise people for a job well done, being sincere and appreciative. It's a well-documented fact that praise improves performance much more than criticism.

God the Father gives us all the love we can imagine; we just need to receive it. Jesus gives us all the instruction we need; we just need to listen to Him. The Holy Spirit graces us beyond our capability to understand; we just need to accept it.

Love begins when we take our eyes off ourselves and look to our brothers and sisters.