

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY TRINITY “A”

JUNE 7, 2020

We are companions on a journey /... for we believe in the love of our God./ We believe in the love of our God. (Carey Landry, 1985)

These familiar lyrics, excerpted from the refrain of the hymn, *Companions on the Journey* are the lens through which I want to reflect with you on this feast of the Holy Trinity.

From the moment of our creation in the “image and likeness” of God, God has desired union between us. Even when we rejected God through Original Sin, the Scripture story tells us God went into the garden in search of Adam and Eve. Though reproaching them for their sin and informing them of its consequences, God immediately extended mercy to them. God sewed leather garments for them to cover their nakedness and vulnerability. In the Fourth Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass we proclaim this merciful fidelity of God to us: ***“when through disobedience we had lost your friendship, you did not abandon us to the domain of death. For you came in mercy to the aid of all, so that those who seek might find you. Time and again you offered us covenants and through the prophets taught us to look forward to salvation.”***

All three of our Scripture readings today speak to this love and mercy of God toward us, his fidelity to his promises, his companioning us on our journey.

In the first reading we encounter the meeting between Moses and God on Mt. Sinai. God proclaims himself: ***“a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”*** Moses responds: ***“If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own.”*** I certainly can find my own life-story here, times when I have been resistant to God’s word, God’s law, “stiff-necked” in pursuing my own goals, doing my own will in place of the will of God. Yet, true to his word and promise, God has not abandoned me. Like Adam and Eve, Moses and the Hebrew people, God extends mercy and grace, continues to journey with me. And this is what gives me hope, strength and courage to go on. And the same holds true for all of us.

Today’s Gospel selection is one of the most beloved and well-known statements of the love and mercy of God: ***“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone***

who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Jesus is the ultimate gift of God’s love and mercy. In Jesus God entered into the fullness of our human nature our human journey even as St. Paul teaches us in quoting an early church hymn: *“to death and that death upon a cross”* a death reserved for the most despised and rejected people. Through Jesus God reveals that no one is outside the grace of divine salvation. In Jesus God companions us, even the worst and most despised among us, and offers us mercy. *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”* As I’ve mentioned in previous homilies, I would hope that in our homes that somewhere where we can encounter it daily there is prominently displayed a crucifix or cross, not primarily as a sign of human brutality and death (though Jesus’ death was that!), but as a continual sign of God’s selfless love, forgiveness and mercy.

Our epistle reading today lists attributes that ought to mark our relationships with one another and all people as recipients of the love and mercy of God through Jesus, who now experience God’s continued companionship of us on our life’s journey through the presence of the Holy Spirit.. It is my hope that all of the expressions of care and concern we’ve witnessed among so many different individuals and groups of people, during this time of the coronavirus, will not disappear when its threat and the social distancing and isolation forced upon us disappear when as the sanctions begin to be lifted. God willing, our communal journey as companions these last months will have resulted in profound conversions individually, as a church and as a nation and world in acknowledging our common brother and sisterhood and the love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy we are called to share as God’s beloved children.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us as companions on the journey who believe and proclaim the love of our God.

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Father Jim Spork