

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: Sunday 12th June 2022 THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Romans 5:5

And a hope which will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

In the conversation of Jesus and Nicodemus, Jesus says what I will use as a point of departure for my reflection: **"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).**

The purpose therefore of God the Father, sending his Son Jesus Christ was so that he may show us how much he loved us. The end of our second reading (the verse I quoted above) refers to the love of God who has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. The Son Jesus Christ came to reveal this love of God as Eucharist Prayer IV states, "having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them till the end." Jesus also spoke about how he has loved his own just as he himself was loved by the Father in the chapter preceding today's gospel passage: **"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, abide in my love" (John 15:9).**

At the heart of today's message therefore is **the love of God**. This is explained in the role of the Holy Spirit that we see in our three readings. **The Wisdom (note the capital letter W) of God that is proclaimed in the first reading from the book of Proverbs is the Holy Spirit that existed before creation.** This pre-existence is also seen in the beginning of John's gospel which refers to the **Word (note the capital letter W) who is the Son that existed in the beginning, and was with God, and was God.**

In today's gospel **Jesus states that everything that the Father has is his**, while talking about the role the Holy Spirit will play. In the **Nicene Creed** we **profess our faith in the Holy Spirit by saying "I believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son."** The Father sent the Son because of the immense love he has for the world, and the Son loved those who were his own just as the Father loved him. Love is what the Father and the Son have in common. This very love of the Father and the Son has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit as St Paul tells us.

The Holy Spirit is therefore the personified love of the Father and the Son. This person is given to us so that **the love of the Father and the Son may find its home in us.** Jesus calls us to abide in his love. Our ability to love can only be made possible, and even reach its fulfillment if we truly abide in the divine love of the Father and the Son poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Our call to love our own is therefore a call to make use of the love of God given to us.** The Holy Spirit intimately brings together the Father and the Son in love, while remaining a distinct person. **The three can never be separated. We in turn can never be separated from God, thanks to his love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.**

Finally our belief is the Holy Spirit who is the Lord and the giver of life. Our first reading refers to the Holy Spirit who was there as every created being came into being. **The love we give to one another has its Divine origins and is life giving.** It is in our animal instincts to preserve what is our very own, it should be in our God given instincts to give the fullness of life to our own through the life giving Holy Spirit that we have received from the Father and the Son.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful Trinity Sunday.

Fr Callistus