



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee May 2024

UPDATING OUR VIEW OF GOD

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

This beautiful time in glow of Easter brings us some of the greatest feasts of the Liturgical Year: the Ascension, Pentecost, and near the end of the month, The Trinity. We have learned that the Ascension is not just ‘Yay, Jesus!’ but the realization that our own humanness, our very DNA is now located in the very Heart of God. We have understood better that the coming of the Spirit into our lives can come in doses of small, medium, or large. But the Trinity?

Years ago, we learned it well: There are Three Persons in God, but there is only one God. That was it. We may have learned it, but why is it that when we are asked to explain it to a Jewish or Muslim friend, to our family, we are tongue-tied. We really don’t know what to say. Maybe it’s time for an update, for moving this most profound of Feasts from the language of doctrine to the language of meaning. Why do we, of all the world religions, believe that there are three ‘somethings’ in God? Because Jesus told us so. He told us so because it is basic to our understanding of the transformation of the entire world. He had to open our minds. He had to widen our narrow, sin-bound understanding. We think that difference means competition: you-against-me. No, Jesus taught. Difference can unify. Now this is a strange thought...for the races, for the nations, for human culture, for the human ego.

If you have a Singer, you know that because there is a Song. If there is a Song, it is because you heard the Singing. If you have a Speaker, you know that, if there is a Word. If you hear a Word, it is because you heard the Speaking of it. If you have a Lover, you need a Beloved, and you know both because of the Loving between them. Remove one difference and the unity collapses. Hmm...that simple? Grammar? Yes, and that profound.

That is what Jesus taught us, and that is what we have to learn as humans to heal human relationships. Difference is meant to create the beauty of unity. Is that why all creation is Trinitarian? Is that why we are Trinitarian as humans: physical, emotional, spiritual, yet one entity? Is that why all of human culture is Trinitarian, for it is in our differences that we will find our oneness? We will finally be healed...because truly we are in the image and likeness of God?

HOLY ONE,

WHAT AM I TO SAY?

ARE YOU LOVE SIMPLY EXPRESSED IN EXPRESSING?

ARE YOU GOD-MYSTERY WHO HAS A GOD-WORD THROUGH A SPIRIT-BEGGETTING?

HMMM...I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT...AMEN.

THANK YOU TO ASSOCIATE MARY KAY McVEY FOR THIS MONTH'S REFLECTIONS

Sunday, May 5, 2024 | The Sixth Sunday of Easter | Jn 15:12

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

Love is what every person seeks. And yet so many seek love in the wrong places. Material wealth, power, comfort, and superficial relationships are often used to replace true loving relationships. Our true joy is found in deep authentic love for God and neighbor. What act of love can I extend this week to another?

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord | Mark 16:15

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.'"

Our Dominican charism of preaching compels us to proclaim the gospel. But that can look very different for each of us. Most of us do not have the ability to travel the whole world. However, each of us can profoundly impact the worlds in which we live when we preach the Good News. Our preaching may be with words, works or actions. How do I express the charism of preaching the Gospel to those I encounter?

Sunday, May 19, 2024 | Pentecost Sunday | Acts 2:3-4

"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

This feast of Pentecost is an opportunity for each of us to recommit ourselves to the unique talents and gifts that we have been given to share in service of the Gospel. Today, let us reflect upon our personal gifts and abilities that we can use as a spark to ignite the fire of the Spirit in the world.

Each of us is given different gifts but the same Spirit. What is my gift to share?

Sunday, May 26, 2024 | Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity | Matthew 28:19

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

The Holy Trinity gives us the perfect example of what loving relationships look like. To be able to retain our individuality within our relationships and yet to be able to give ourselves completely in love to another is modeled for us in the relationship of the persons of the Trinity. How will I express the gift of unifying love in my daily life and work this week?