

A Word from the Pastor

Sunday, June 11, 2017

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the heart of our faith: the revelation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a loving communion of three divine persons, in one divine nature, the Holy Trinity.

In today's gospel we hear part of a conversation between Jesus and a man named Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, who has come to Jesus under the cover of darkness. In an earlier part of their discussion, Jesus spoke of the need to be reborn "from above" and in today's passage he speaks of the great love of God who gave the world his own Son, not to condemn us but to save us.

In their exchange Jesus challenges Nicodemus to move beyond an old, incomplete image of God so as to grow toward a more complete faith that recognizes God working and moving from his Spirit of profound love; recognizing God as one who constantly takes the initiative to be reconciled with his people, despite our failings; recognizing God as one not removed from us but constantly present in every act of love.

Recently two news stories have caught my attention. The first is that of a Rick, a father of four and a member of Christ the King Church in Milwaukie, Oregon, who along with another man was killed last month when the two – along with a third man who survived - intervened to protect two women being harassed by a man on a commuter train in Portland, Oregon.

The other story is of Michelle, a 20 year old charged with involuntary manslaughter for sending text messages to her boyfriend – who suffered from depression - that could have led him to take his own life. One message she is reported to have texted read: "You just have to do it."

As those re-created through baptism to share in the life of the Trinity, our actions towards those in need must always be rooted in God's love. Our actions can never lead others to harm, but must always bring them to life. Our actions must be rooted in a love so profound that we are willing to do whatever it takes to bring the presence of God, the compassionate, the merciful, the forgiving, the loving presence of God to them.

Peace and blessings,
Fr. John