

05/31/15 Trinity Sunday B

-- So many people spend a lot of energy following famous personalities. They may be politicians, rock stars, movie stars. Some even do this with religious figures. Pope Francis is one whom many people follow as a popular figure.

-- In its proper place, this pursuit is relatively harmless, but it is not really that beneficial at the deepest level. For, while we may admire these people, we are following them at a distance. It is quite another matter to be committed to following someone close up.

-- I believe many people treat God like one of those famous personalities. They like to follow him at a distance. They call upon God when they have some special need, but God is not really the main influence in their lives. There are so many other priorities pressing on them day to day.

-- It's harder to keep our family members at a distance, though some do that. Our family usually demands our attention and commitment. For the most part, we can't ignore them, or we do so at our peril.

-- If the scriptures tell us anything, they tell us that God is not looking for fans who follow him at a distance. Yes, God is powerful...God is the source of all things. We would cease to exist without God's presence.

-- Yet God calls us into an intimate relationship with him. St. Paul tells us that we are adopted sons. In our American culture, he probably would have said adopted children, but in his culture, only sons inherited their father's wealth.

-- God has freely chosen to bring us into his family. So we are not to follow him at a distance. We are as close as a family member.

-- Why would God call us, lowly human beings, into such a relationship with him? Why would he choose us as his own? I think a good part of the reason is in God's own nature. And that is what this Feast of the Holy Trinity is all about.

-- God is not some lonely but all-powerful being who controls the universe. God is in the most intimate relationship imaginable. God, in fact, **is** an intimate relationship. The most powerful and intimate community is that of the Trinity. We can barely begin to imagine it, and that is why we call it a mystery.

-- There is only one God. We affirm that fact along with our Jewish and Islamic sisters and brothers. Yet God is not sitting apart on some high throne, manipulating creation to his own fancy.

-- God is calling us to share the life of the Trinity, the life of an intimate union of love. We are his adopted sons and daughters. We are beloved by him, the crown of creation.

-- So, when we reach out in love to a family member, a neighbor, someone in need in our neighborhood, or to a poor family or families in another part of the world, we are, in some small way, reflecting the life of the Trinity.

-- Yes, God is all powerful, and we will never approach God's greatness. But God has chosen to accept us as a part of his family. It is the family of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which continues God's presence on earth today.

-- By our baptism, we accept that mission to carry the life of the Trinity to the world around us. The Triune God is with us until the end of time. May we welcome the love of the Trinity, and share that love to the best of our ability with everyone we touch this coming week.