

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

After last week's celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost, and with it the liturgical conclusion of the Easter season, we join together today in the ordinal progression of time, living out the mysteries of our faith. The mystery of our creation in the image and likeness of God, the mystery of our redemption in Christ Jesus, the mystery of our share in the Holy Spirit, are all lived out in our everyday. Yes, it may be difficult to realize precisely how and to appreciate the significance, but you and I and everyone redeemed in Christ, are signs of wonderful and stupendous mysteries. We are capable of perceiving the great wonders of God!

Through faith and reason, through lived experience and contemplated prayer, through natural wonder and supernatural awe, you and I can come to know (at least in some way) great truths of God. One such truth we celebrate today is the Most Holy Trinity.

This mystery, beyond simple fathoming, but not beyond our simple acts of faith, such as the Sign of the Cross, reveals to us the inner working of God: one-in-three. God is one in perfect unity and three in personal trinity. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. One God, three Persons.

As we are invited to consider prayerfully and thoughtfully this mystery, we come to realize the power of our own bonds of unity and personal relationality. We come to realize our capacity for love. The Most Holy Trinity reveals to us the great beauty of divine love. Let us aspire always to understand such love in our own lives, as we love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Sadly, we also realize how too often we fail in this love. This week many of our households have received a letter from our bishop, Most Rev. William Byrne, regarding the great pain and evil that has been clergy sex abuse in our diocese. Please find a reprint of that letter in this bulletin, and please consider joining myself and other faithful, here in our parish and our diocese, in expressing sorrow and making acts of reparation for the hurtful sins of so many. With an expanded list, now including those who died after allegations were made, we may recognize a few more names. In a more concerted way, let us also facilitate healing for those who suffered so much from these crimes and sins. If you or someone you know was ever abused by clergy or diocesan personnel, please do not be afraid to step forward. The local District Attorneys' offices and law enforcement have anonymous hotlines and the diocesan Office of Safe Environment and Victims Assistance takes each act of outreach seriously and carefully. While many have failed to love in word and deed, today and each new day we can begin to make our actions meaningful and our love authentic. May the divine love that binds the Most Holy Trinity truly teach us how.

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz