

## HOMILY FOR FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

The mystery of God is found in our teaching of the Trinity. God is defined as three persons who are so connected to each other that they are one. And their very being, their identity, comes from their union, their oneness.

The reason why the Trinity is so important to us is that it teaches us that our identity is found in our connectedness to God and then to each other. It teaches us that we are not meant to live life in isolation but rather in unity.

While we often forget our connectedness to God and to each other, there are moments when we come face to face with our unity. It happened on 9/11. It happened during Hurricane Katrina. It happened in the earthquake in Haiti. It happens again and again, when tragedy strikes and we reach out to each other. We journey through life with one hand in God's and the other in our sisters and brothers with whom we share life on this earth. And when we are called to once again discover this oneness, we discover what life is truly all about.

But our unity does not end with our life journey here on earth. It extends into eternity and that extension into eternity is what we celebrate on this feast of All Saints. It celebrates our connectedness to

those who have entered into that fullness of life, that complete victory in Christ Jesus. These are the people we call saints -- people who were both fragile and strong, brave and weak. And what made them worthy of being one of the saints was their willingness to allow the Gospel to touch their lives and let them discover that their lives meant nothing unless their hands were joined to God's and to each other.

We honor the saints and pray that they may touch our lives and intercede for us that we might follow their example and let God hold our hand as we reach out to hold each other's hand. God is one and we are one with God when we learn from the saints that life is not lived in isolation but in unity with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.