

Homily for Trinity Sunday

In the middle of the 19th Century a proud university student boarded a train in France and sat next to a somewhat disheveled older man who was praying the Rosary.

“Sir, do you still believe in such outdated things?,” the student inquired. “Science teaches us that what you are doing is pure foolishness. Allow me to introduce myself to you. My name is Jean Pierre and I am a graduate student in science. Take my advice. Throw the rosary out the window, and learn what science has to say about it.”

Humbly, almost with tears in his eyes, the older man said: “Science? I do not understand what you mean by science. Perhaps you can explain it to me.”

The university student noticed that the man seemed hurt. To avoid hurting the older man’s feelings further, he said, “Please give me your address and I will send you some literature to explain the matter to you.” The man fumbled in the inside pocket of his coat and pulled out his business card. Upon reading it, the student lowered his head in shame and was speechless. The card read: “Louis Pasteur, Director of the Institute of Scientific Research, Paris.”

It was Albert Einstein who said that “there are only two ways to live your life. One as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

Louis Pasteur and Albert Einstein, among the most respected names in the history of science, understood what we are celebrating today. For today we celebrate the mystery of God...God who is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Better said: today we celebrate the miracle of God that surrounds us, that permeates our lives, that is in the very air we breathe.

This is the message of Moses in the first reading: God is everywhere. God is “in the heaven above and on earth beneath.” God permeates all of existence. And it is the Spirit of God that moves us to understand the profound mystery of God’s presence in our lives. To understand what the gospel teaches us that no matter what we face in life: ridicule, judgement, failure, illness, addiction, rejection, depression, unemployments, whatever we encounter, Jesus is beside us. God never leaves us.

Do we understand God? Never. Can we take God apart and put God back together? Impossible. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that “God is beyond knowing.” But it is St. Augustine who teaches us that while we strive to comprehend God, it is only when we find love that we

find...that we experience...the mystery of God...the mystery of the Holy Trinity. It is in love that we experience the great mystery of God whose love creates us, surrounds us and sustains us in all that we do and in all that we are.