



Immaculate Conception
Church

Homily for Trinity Sunday
Year B 2015

Mark Twain once wrote: “Let us choose so to live that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.” Beautiful words – are they not? Yet the strangest thing is that Mark Twain, for all his talent, hated people. And the older he got the more he disliked people and withdrew from them. When he died it was more a literary event than the passing of a beloved human being.

I think that it is fairly easy to take on Mark Twain’s view of people. Let’s face it...there are a lot of people who can be hostile, selfish, brutal, nasty, dishonest, unloving – just to name a few. Not everyone is nice – like you and me. And so one wonders: what does God see in us? Why does God love us so much.

Here is the ultimate mystery and perhaps the hardest of all lessons to learn. God indeed does love us...each and every one of us. The first and second readings today spell out God’s goodness and love for every one of us. And God loves us for who we are – not for who we should be. In God’s eyes we are all somebody. None of us is a nobody. It is for that reason that God sent His Son who died to show the full extent of God’s love and sent God’s Spirit so that we would never be alone in life’s journey.

And God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit says to each one of us – if I can love you so much why can’t you love each other? If I can care for you and treasure you and reverence you – why can’t you do that for each other? If we are going to make disciples of people, then we need to do what God does for us...love each other.

I sometimes muse that God must be very dismayed with us when God looks down and sees how we treat each other. God must be dismayed when we talk about each other, tear each other down, make fun of each other and, more often than we would like to admit, become so self-absorbed that we barely notice each other.

On this weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Trinity. It is meant to remind us of the mystery of God. But that mystery is more than the union of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is the profound mystery of God loving each one of us and asking us to do the same for each other. Mark Twain was right. We should live in such a way that at our death even the undertaker will grieve. Better yet, we should live our lives in such a way that at our death God will rejoice that we have given to others the love that God first poured into our own hearts.