

FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY (B) June 3, 2012
The Trinity – Model for Human Society

Introduction. What's our greatest joy? Having close, intimate, loving relationships; sharing life, with others: husband and wife, parents and children, families and friends, ... doing enjoyable things together

Where do we get all this? Well, obviously, it comes to us from God who created us, created everything.

God created us to have enjoyable relationships that make us happy, fulfilled.

Why did God create us this way? Because that's the way God is and we are created in his image.

1) God is a family, a community of persons

1. God is a relationship of three Persons, who each share fully, the most intimate, loving relationship. Each One shares fully the one life of God, which is why there is only one God.
2. We are created in the image of God, male and female. It takes both male and female to be the full image of God. All human society then is created in the image of God, to be in relationship with each other, as the Persons of the Trinity are in relationship with each other.
3. The Persons in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are the Persons they are, because of their relationship with each other. They give fully of themselves to the other Persons.
4. So also with us. We become the persons we want to be through our relationships with others, and by giving fully of ourselves to others.
5. No room for individualism: going it alone, not depending on others, seeking only my own goals for myself, without regard for others.
6. Actually, we can't grow and develop without others, right from the time we are infants; through our growing years, we depend on others for food, clothing, shelter, learning, education, having a job. Even in our mature years: there's no "self-made man, or woman," we still need others to supply our needs.
7. Surely we can see, from the way God made us to be, in God's image, the way human life and society should be.

2) The principles to follow, to be in God's image

1. Since we are created in God's image, we have our God-given dignity as human persons.
2. So we must respect each other, all human persons, whatever their race, colour, creed, disabilities, whether poor or well off, because they are all created in the image of God. Can't look down on anybody.
3. Our human rights flow from our dignity as human persons. We are born with these rights. Governments do not confer our rights upon us but rather, uphold and protect them.
3. We must respect the rights of each and all human persons, first of all, the right to life itself, from conception to natural death, then a great number of rights: the right to sufficient food, shelter, clothing to maintain themselves, the right to an education, the right to have work that returns an adequate income, and the right to form labour unions, the right to health care, and so on.

4. There are many cases of workers on low, unjust wages. While we can blame the employer, the employer is also under the pressure of our competitive economic system.
5. For a long time, our economic system has been influenced, governed by the philosophy of individualism.
6. To put this philosophy in its baldest terms, it looks upon us as self-made persons, who don't depend on others, that it's every man for himself, that everyone can strive, sometimes ruthlessly, to get to the top, and achieve all the wealth and power they want.
7. But the resulting practices and systems mean that no one is independent, all are influenced and caught up in this competitive system.
8. The spirit of our individualistic capitalism of free competition is one of everyone competing to get more for himself, often without regard for the good of others, and wanting the least possible regulation by government or other bodies.
9. Pope John Paul stated that the free market, profit, and capitalism are all acceptable, but must be controlled by society and government for the common good.(Centesimus Annus 42)

3) Solidarity and the Common Good

1. The system of individualistic capitalism is in contradiction to the way God has made society to be, it's in contradiction to human nature. Those who have competed their way to the top realize this when they don't find fulfillment. Those who have amassed wealth honestly can find fulfillment in using their wealth for the good of others.
2. God made us to live in interdependence and in solidarity, that is, to have commitment to the common good, the good of all and each individual, because we are all really responsible for all. (Social Concerns of the Church, 38.4). It means living in mutual support of one another.
3. If society is to function for the good of all, then we must observe the common good. The common good is the set of conditions which allow people to come to their proper development and fulfillment, with the resources to do this. It could be phrased as all working for the good of each, each one working for the good of all.
4. The purpose of society is the good of each individual member, his welfare and development. This is the overall purpose of governments.
5. All of us have an obligation to work with other members of our group for the common good of our group and all the groups of which we are members, beginning with our family, then the workplace, parish, school, community, unions, businesses, various levels of government. We have a number of common goods to work for, each fitting into the other. We need to work with others to bring about change
6. The common good is not being fulfilled when many members of our society are poor, needy, discriminated, or not receiving the care and support they need.
7. If society functioned according to these principles, allowing for the exceptions that will always occur, then we would, by and large, have a happy, peaceful society and world.

4) Our Mission: "Go therefore and make disciples"

1. Jesus died to overcome the divisions and separations of our world, separation from God our Father, from each other, even from the world of nature, all caused by sin.
2. He says: "I am with you always, to the end of the age". He gives us his Spirit to unite us and strengthen us, to give us courage and the power of his love to overcome discord and animosity.

3. He says to us as he said to the apostles: “Go and make disciples.”
4. He calls us now to go into our world, the world around us, our family, where we work, wherever we go, to be witnesses of his love and truth, as he lives in us and sustains us.
5. He calls us to work with members of the groups we are in, even one or two others, to make things good for all, as we act in the image of the Trinity: mutually loving, cherishing, giving fully of self.

Transition to Eucharist

Jesus comes now to renew and strengthen our Covenant bond in him:

“this is the cup of my blood of the new covenant”

Unite yourself with Jesus and pray to be renewed and strengthened in your Covenant,
in your relationship with God our Father, with each other, and with the earth.,
to work for justice, love, and peace in our world.