

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – Cycle A
Homily by Fr. Hugo L. Blotsky, O.S.B.
June 7, 2020

- I. **God is doing wonderful things in the church and in the world today to bring about reconciliation and healing. As we celebrate the Feast of Holy Trinity, we want to thank God for the way He is bringing about reconciliation and unity between Roman Catholics and Anglicans and Episcopalians today. God has the same power to bring about reconciliation and healing in our country that is divided by race, politics and a host of other issues.**
 - A. **In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI set up an ordinariate (which is a diocese) in the United Kingdom so that Anglican bishops, priests and laity can join the Catholic Church and yet retain some of their Anglican practices.**
 - 1. **Shortly after the ordinariate was set up, about 60 former Anglican priests were ordained as Roman Catholic priests. Many of these former Anglican priests are married men, and so there are now married Roman Catholic priests.**
 - 2. **The Vatican is not allowing priests to marry, but is giving special permission to former married clergy to be ordained as Catholic priests.**
 - B. **An ordinariate (or diocese) was set up in the United States in 2012 for Anglican/Episcopalian bishops, priests and laity that may want to join the Catholic Church.**
 - 1. **About 100 Anglican/Episcopalian priests in the U.S. had applied to become Roman Catholic priests at the time. And about 2,000 laity wanted to become Roman Catholic and belong to the ordinariate when it was set up.**
 - C. **About 6 years ago, Pope Francis met with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in Jerusalem to discuss how the Catholic and Orthodox Churches can work together more closely towards unity.**
 - D. **God is definitely doing something new in the church and in the world today. We need not be afraid.**
 - E. **When we look around us today, there are many negative things going on in the world and in our country. One could easily become disheartened and discouraged at the high divorce rate, the bad economy, terrorism, the problem of alcohol and other drug abuse, rioting, violence, and the list goes on.**

- F. We find hope in the words of Jesus in the Gospel for today, John 3:16, “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life.”
 - G. In the next sentence, we hear Jesus say, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”
 - H. Jesus carried out His mission to save the world through His Passion, Death and Resurrection.
 - I. To help us continue to do the work of the Lord, Jesus has sent us the Holy Spirit to empower His people, to unite God’s people, to lead us into reconciliation and healing, and to lead us into holiness of life.
- II. About 6 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops met in New Orleans to discuss the needs of Catholics in the US. Some topics of concern that were discussed were: marriage and family life, the economy and poverty. These are on-going concerns of the Catholic Church.
- A. In his talks about family life, Pope Francis refers to the family as the “domestic Church,” the place where Jesus’ presence grows in the love of spouses and in the lives of their children.
 - 1. The Pope goes on to say, “This is why the Enemy attacks the family so hard. The Devil doesn’t like it, and tries to destroy it. May the Lord bless families and strengthen them during this crisis when the Devil wants to destroy them.”
 - 2. Pope Francis has mentioned on several different occasions that the greatest Enemy of the Church and the world today is the Devil. Families in America are definitely under attack.
 - B. We need to remind ourselves of the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 6, where he says: “Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.”
 - C. About poverty, the Bishops have reminded us that there is a need to include the teachings on human dignity and poverty that have come to us from both Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis.
 - 1. The question is, how can the Catholic Church be more effective in its teaching that each and every person has received human dignity from the Creator at the moment of conception to the moment of natural death?

3. Another question is, how can the Catholic Church use its moral influence with our elected officials in government on all levels to provide assistance to those living in poverty?
 4. The temptation is to have the government on the federal and state levels to throw money at problems with the hope that the problems will get fixed.
 5. My question is, how can the Catholic Church use its moral influence to motivate individuals who are capable of working to find a job to make a living and not expect entitlements to take care of them?
- III. We are seeing the Holy Spirit working in powerful ways as we get more involved with the new evangelization around the world. The Church has been involved with evangelization since the beginning of the Church. Evangelization means to proclaim the Person, Name, and message of Jesus Christ to all with whom we come in contact, either by word or by good example.
- A. St. Francis of Assisi, gave his definition of evangelization in simple words: “Proclaim the Gospel always, and if necessary, say a few words.”
 1. By this statement, St. Francis was speaking of the great importance that Christians give witness to their faith by good example.
 - B. In our local church, next Wednesday, June 10, Bishop Steven will be ordaining Seminarian Vin Luh as a deacon in Casper. Next year, God willing, two men will be ordained to the priesthood for our diocese.
 - C. All of us have a duty to work for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and to lay ministry.
 - D. Today, we are witnessing God the Father, God the Son and the God the Holy Spirit working together in the Church and in the world to bring about renewal and new hope. In the Holy Trinity we see an example of complete harmony and unity. We have nothing to fear.