

Homily Most Holy Trinity may 31, 2015

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTISING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE.

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS RECORDED IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW.....

JESUS IS GIVING HIS DISCIPLES "THE GREAT COMMISSION"

TO EVANGELIZE AND BAPTIZE "ALL NATIONS". ...BUT IN THIS ONE SENTENCE...

JESUS ALSO GIVES US THE CLEAREST EXPRESSION IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE OF THE

"HOLY TRINITY".....THAT MYSTERY WHICH IS THE VERY FOUNDATION UPON

WHICH WE, AS CHRISTIANS, BASE OUR FAITH. AND WHETHER WE REALIZE IT OR

NOT, WE'VE ALREADY PROCLAIMED THIS SEVERAL TIMES TODAY..... AS

CATHOLICS WE DO THIS EVERYTIME WE COME TO MASS,

EVERYTIME WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.....EVERYTIME WE PROFESS OUR

FAITH.WHEN YOU DIPPED YOUR FINGER INTO THE FONT OF HOLY WATER AND

MADE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AS YOU ENTERED THE CHURCH, AS YOU KNEELED

OR GENUFLECTED AND MADE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AS YOU ENTERED INTO

YOUR PEW, AND AS FATHER KEITH BEGAN MASS, WE DID SO IN THE NAME OF

THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....

WE MADE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

(2)

NOW AS FORMER METHODIST, AND FATHER KEITH AS A FORMER BAPTIST YOU CAN PROBABLY RELATE TO THIS TOO; BEFORE I JOINED THE CHURCH, I USED TO ASK, “WHAT’S ALL THIS SIGNING ABOUT?”

I MEAN, NOBODY REALLY EXPLAINED IT TO ME,

IT WASN’T WRITTEN IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL OR ON A PEW CARD

.....EVERYBODY JUST KEPT SIGNING THEMSELVES.....AND I KIND OF FELT LEFT

OUT I GUESS.....I JUST DIDN’T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT.....AND

YOU KNOW HOW THAT IS.....IF YOU DON’T’ KNOW WHAT IT IS.....AND YOU’RE

BEING LEFT OUT.....IT CAN’T BE GOOD, RIGHT?

SO, FOR THOSE OF YOU HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME.....OR THOSE OF YOU HERE

WITH YOUR CATHOLIC SPOUSE, FRIEND OF FAMILY MEMBER.....AND FOR ALL

OF US CATHOLICS TOO.....THIS IS A GOOD REMINDER

(MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS...SLOWLY)

THIS..... IS US.....DECLARING THE FAITH.....THAT WE ALL.....YES, WE ALL....AS

CHRISTIANS..... BELIEVE. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER.....AND OF THE SON, AND

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE SAME WORDS THAT WERE PROCLAIMED AT YOUR

BAPTISM, OR CHRISTENING....SAID OVER YOU AS A CHILD OR AN ADULT..... NO

MATTER WHAT CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION YOU WERE BAPTISED INTO.....YOU

WERE OFFICIALLY CLAIMED FOR CHRIST..IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON

AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.....**JUST AS CHRIST COMMISSIONED THE DISCIPLES**

TO DO.....

(3)

SO, WHEN WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, WE ARE MAKING A
STATEMENT OF OUR FAITH....AND THIS FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY IS THE
PERFECT DAY TO BE REMINDED OF THIS.....THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IS
NOT MYSTERIOUS, AND CERTAINLY.....NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE.....
TO THE CONTRARY, IT'S TO REMIND US WHO WE ARE.....WHAT WE STAND
FOR....AND I GUESS IN A WAY TO PROCLAIM TO OTHERS OUR BELIEF IN...
GOD "OUR FATHER"CREATOR OF ALL THINGS..... **HIS ONLY SON JESUS**
CHRIST.....OUR SAVIOR..... WHO DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US AND OUR
SALVATION....AND **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, THE THIRD PERSON IN THE HOLY TRINITY,
SENT BY GOD TO HELP US, TO INSPIRE US AND TO GUIDE US IN DOING THE
FATHER'S WILL HERE ON EARTH..... SO THAT ONE DAY....ONE DAY..... WE MAY
ALL.....JOIN HIM IN HEAVEN.....

SO, NOW I HOPE WE'VE GOT THAT ALL CLEARED UP.....IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING ELSE FROM THIS TODAY, I WANT EVERYONE IN THIS CHURCH TO
REMEMBER.....THAT THIS GREAT COMMISSION FROM JESUS... IS FOR US
TOO...HIS DISCIPLES....JUST AS IT WAS FOR THE FIRST DICIPLES....AND
WHILE WE'RE NOT ALL GOING TO BE MISSIONAIRIES IN A FOREIGN LAND.....WE
ARE CALLED JUST THE SAME.....IN OUR OWN WAY.....IN OUR OWN
CIRCUMSTANCE.....TO BRING OTHERS TO KNOW THE LOVE OF THE FATHER, THE
PROMISES OF THE SON AND THE COMFORT AND GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT....

(4)

A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE MEMBERS HERE AT GOOD SHEPHERD.....IS TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE ATTENDING THIS MASS AS A GUEST.....CATHOLIC OR NOT..... DOESN'T LEAVE THIS CHURCH TODAY UNTIL THEY KNOW THEY ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HEREEVEN IF THEY SAT IN OUR PLACE....OUR FAVORITE PEW.....EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS OR KNEEL DOWN OR STAND UP AT THE RIGHT TIME OR GO TO COMMUNION . IT MIGHT HELP US TO REMEMBER THAT **CHRIST LOVED EVERYONE**.....AND THAT'S OUR JOB AS DISCIPLES....THAT'S OUR PART OF THE "GREAT COMMISSION"TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT TODAY AND EVERY DAY.....BY WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE DO, IN THIS CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD.....

SO FOR MY PART TODAY, IF YOU ARE A GUEST, YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AT GOOD SHEPHERD.....AND IF YOU ARE NOT CATHOLIC I CAN TELL YOU BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.....IF YOU COME BACK OFTEN ENOUGH....

YOU'LL DISCOVER, AS I DID.... THE MORE YOU FIND OUT ABOUT WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO, THE MORE YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT ALL WE DO IS DONE IN FAITH.... BASED ON SCRIPTURE.... AND OVER TWO THOUSAND OF YEARS OF TRADITION..... AND ALL, TO PROFESS OUR FAITH IN THE SAME CHRIST ALL CHRISTIANS CALL LORD AND SAVIOR.....