

June 7, 2009
Trinity Sunday

Having come to the end of the Easter season and all the special feasts and celebrations associated with it, we turn our attention to teachings of Jesus so that we might be formed into better disciples.

Today we celebrate the Trinity. Jesus taught us about the triune nature of God by His references to the Father, Who sent Him and in Whose glory He now shares, and the Spirit, the One Whom He will send to lead us in truth. This Trinity of persons in one God has called us into being, has redeemed us, and continues to sanctify us by His indwelling. It is this God, the full manifestation of love and Self-giving that we must preach. It is this God Whom we invoke when we initiate new members into the community of faith and the kingdom of God.

True discipleship means forming ourselves in the image of God. It is not enough to speak of God's love and self-giving, although that is part of what we are called to do. True disciples make other disciples by modeling God-like behavior, striving to imitate God's love and generosity in their own lives. Good preachers may move us, or make us think, or help us see things in new ways. But their impact is usually short-lived. Lasting impressions are made by the people who live the message as well as speak it.

We move into Ordinary time, a time of reflection and study and the effort to put our faith more consistently into practice. If we do this well, we will make discipleship our ordinary way of life. Like the dancer or the athlete who practices faithfully, what we practice becomes such a part of ourselves we do not even have to think about it. We become disciples in nature as well as in desire. This is the goal of Ordinary time in the liturgical year.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat