

## **Most Holy Trinity (6/7/09)**

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity is the Church's celebration of the unknowable. God is unknowable in His essence. A Greek monk of the 4th century, Evagrius of Pontus, famously remarked: "God cannot be grasped by the mind. If God could be grasped, God would not be God." Another scholar taught: "God is that than which nothing greater can be." At the end of a whole semesters worth of reviewing theological attempts to explain the Trinity, the final exam was summed up: God is Mystery.

The nature of God is one of the central tenets of our faith yet it cannot be explained. When we think deeply about this, it means that God is so far beyond us that we cannot begin to comprehend his nature. It doesn't mean we shouldn't try to ponder the imponderable, only to realize we will not receive a full answer until we meet God. But contemplating on God has been and is a source of grace for many people throughout history. God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we live our lives in wonder and awe of this miracle, we will indeed be blessed. Amen!

## **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (6/14/09)**

The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is a gift from Jesus to His Church to remind us of our need to depend on God. Did you catch that word, “need”?

Dependence on God is not an option; it is a necessity if we wish to enjoy salvation. A good question for us to ponder is, “How do I depend on God?” Of course there can be an unhealthy dependence on God by choosing not to act in the world and waiting for God to do everything. This is not what God wants; rather we are to act in the world as the hands of God, as people made in His image. But that action cannot be without guidance from the principles of life God gave us, the commandments and beatitudes. The road to perfect love comes only through obedience to God’s will.

A healthy dependence on God comes from a realization that we cannot achieve salvation on our own merits. We cannot achieve holiness through our own efforts. A healthy dependence on God involves a beautiful cooperation between God and man. God inspires us to do the good and gives us His grace to strengthen us, and we then act as God’s representatives to accomplish His will in the world. The Body and Blood of Jesus, His true presence of grace within us, enables us to become partners with God in creating a world of peace and justice, of love and joy. May we, with full awareness of mind and spirit, approach the table of the Lord with grateful reverence for the rest of our lives and look forward to celebrating the presence of the Lord with us for all eternity. Amen!  
Reprinted from this Feast on May 25, 2008.

## **12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (6/21/09)**

This week we officially began summer. Although we may have different routines from the rest of the year, our readings remind us of the one eternal truth of our God's Love for us. The Lord asks us not to be afraid even when we face difficulties in living our faith. Our God will always be with us, not necessarily to do away with our troubles but to help us face them and eventually overcome them with God's grace. Nothing happens to us that God doesn't know about. Even the hairs of our heads are counted by God (Some of us make it easy on God in this category)!!

Jesus tells us that everyone who acknowledges Him before others He will acknowledge before His heavenly Father. So it is important that we not be afraid to witness to Christ in the world. We don't have to stand on a soapbox on the street corner to do so, but to be ready to ask the gentle question, "Do you think that's what Jesus would do?" Sometimes we just need to remind people that God is watching with anticipation for the good we will do with our lives. As we prepare to enjoy the summer season, let us not forget our daily companion! Amen. Reprinted from the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time from June 22, 2008.

### **13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (6/28/09)**

Who is this Jesus we read about in Mark's gospel, taming the sea and wind last week and now healing and restoring the dead to life? Do we want to get involved with someone like him? Can we afford not to? Mark poses these questions for his readers in the 1st century and for us today.

The Wisdom reading reminds us that God's plan for creation was perfect, with no harm or sin or death involved. But sin and death entered the world and all creation, including humans, was wounded. There was nothing we could do to reverse the effects of sin and death. But God in his mercy and love sent his son so that through his suffering and death, life - both physical and spiritual - could be offered again to humanity. The coming of Jesus was God's way of breathing life again into his fallen children. The mystery of who Jesus is reveals God's love.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they received many blessings from the Lord and invites them to share their blessings with others who are in need in imitation of Jesus who came to share his blessings with all who approach him in faith. The faith of the woman with a hemorrhage healed her, and the faith of the parents of the young girl who died allowed Jesus to restore life. May our faith allow us to approach Jesus for restoration to spiritual and physical life, now and every day. Having been restored to life in the Spirit may we also share our blessings with those in need. Amen. From the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 2, 2006.