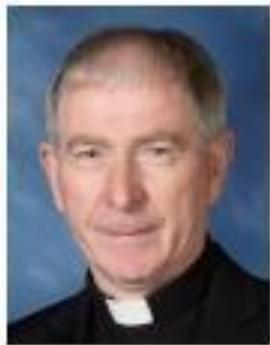


Father Martin's Pen

June 16, 2019



Trinity Sunday

Using an image from the construction industry, if the foundations are not right, all else will be problematic. The doors will not fit, the windows will be out of line, pipes will not lay properly along the walls and finally the roof will show the flaws in the structure. The Trinity has the same role in our faith. It is a foundation. It is like a plumb bob or spirit level that is used to insure that the main frame of the building is 90 degrees to the horizontal. If we do not accept the Trinity as the core belief of our faith, everything else cannot be explained or accounted for. We are a Trinitarian church starting from our baptism. Indeed baptisms that are performed without the Trinitarian formula are invalid baptisms. Directors of faith formation have to determine if a person seeking to join our church have been baptized using the Trinity formula of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was the first Council of Nicaea 325 AD which clarified the doctrine of the Trinity and gave it to us in summary form in the Nicene (Nicaea) Creed.

Why do we place such emphasis on the Trinity?

It is the love relationship that is in the Trinity that is the source of all Christian love.

This same love transmitted to us by Christ is the core element of Catholic life. Jesus attest to this in chapter 17 of John's Gospel.

"...that the love with which you (the Father) loved me (Jesus) may be in them (the Apostles) and I in them."

Again and again Jesus refers to the love that exists between him and the Father. The ideal of Christianity is that the whole world would eventually be embraced by the love of the Trinity.

May we in our time not shrink from the responsibility of being witnesses to the love of God poured out on us from the cross, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

St. Paul said it for us in the Acts of the Apostles speaking to the Athenians "in Him we live and move and have our being...for we too are his offspring." 17.28

Father Martin

Rev. Martin J. Bourke
Parish Priest
Visitation & Holy Rosary Parishes
Archdiocese of Seattle