

Homily for May 26, 2002
Feast of the Holy Trinity Cycle A

By Father Charles Bowes

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

God empowers God's people to share God's infinite love.

Three persons in one God, the Trinity – this doctrine is less a photograph of God than it is a working model for the Church. We have come to understand God in three ways. It doesn't mean God has three, and only three job descriptions, nor does the doctrine give God three heads, but rather provides us with three windows on the sacred. Through this understanding of who God is, we come to understand who we are. In fact, through the doctrine of the Trinity we can see Jesus' command in a new light – his command to go, teach, and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is rather obvious from the reports of him that when God's son, Jesus Christ, moved through this time and space he had the same kind of experience we all have. He was and remains as human as we – yet now glorified. Day and night, he was surrounded by people who were blind, deaf, paralyzed, mute and afraid. You know what the Son of God and the son of man did to

them. He always did the same: the blind saw, the deaf heard, the paralyzed walked, the mute spoke, those who were afraid got courage, and those who had been hardly anything at all in their own eyes were liberated, becoming prime movers in the history of salvation that he started among us.

In modern America, a word that we hear often to describe what Jesus did for those people is “empower.” He empowered them.

And that is what he asked his disciples to do when he sent them out, saying: “Baptize them in the power they have, the power of their origin created by the Father, the power of their kinship, blood-related to Jesus Christ the Son, the power of the Holy Spirit in them already.”

In other words, this power of God's love is already in the midst of the human – it's just that not everybody sees it or celebrates it.

When we come to Mass, it is usually easier for the bread and wine to be convinced that it is the body of Christ than it is for us to be so convinced. And yet that indeed is what we are – Christ, God's spirit to the world we touch.

We might well ask, “Lord, what was it like for you to discover that you as well as everyone else are children of God?”

For some years now, our parish has been focusing upon sharing our faith. We find this is a natural outgrowth of sharing Eucharist – it completes it. The Good News is good precisely because it's shared. And the empowerment we receive in Holy Communion is destined not to remain inside us contained, but distributed, celebrated – touching the world we inhabit.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has recognized what we do here by giving Our Lady of the Rosary Parish its Pentecost Award. We almost didn't apply for it because it's so much a part of what we do all the time here. But we did, and we won. With us today we have Mr. Curtis Kneblík (Saturday Mass)/Sister Elaine Becker (Sunday 9:00 and 11:30 Masses), who represents the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and its wish to give recognition to this parish and to what God is doing here through us.

(representative speaks)

Thank you, Mr. Kneblík/Sister Becker, this award belongs to all of us, and so to receive it I'm going to step down into the midst of the Assembly and on behalf of the parish accept this good gift. And to do this I'll invite the church please, to stand.

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God's infinite love.