

First Reading – Exodus 34:4-6,8-9

Responsorial – Daniel 3:52-56

Second Reading – Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel – John 3:16-18

Sunday Gospel Reflection – Solemnity of The Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020 — Jim Anderson

The Gospel for this Sunday, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is probably one of the best known (or at least most referenced) Gospel passages: John 3:16. Maybe we don't always remember what it says, but you'll undoubtedly remember the "3:16" numbers from posters held by spectators at various sports events. What is John 3:16?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that who so ever should believe in Him would not perish but would have life everlasting." This is both a beautiful and important call for each one of us.

The world right now is in a state of crisis, and we can see that tempers are starting to flare and tensions are great. On this Feast of The Holy Trinity, we are reminded of the homeland of our heart and our opportunity to abide in Christ, to abide within the Trinity, to strive to continue to abide there and ultimately, to abide there for eternity. It takes faith and perseverance.

As I reflecting on this gospel, I am struck by words that come back to mind from the French theologian and poet Charles Péguy:

"We must all be saved together! Reach God together! Appear before Him together! We must return to our Father's house together...what would He think if we arrived without the others, without the others returning, too?"

In this time—just after the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, just after the celebration of His Ascension into Heaven to make a place for us in the Father's house, just after the celebration of the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit—we are invited now to participate in the great mission of the Holy Trinity, that Christ might be known and that all people might be able to come and be drawn into belief. That is what this Gospel is about: about coming to belief, and being members of the mystical body of Christ helping to inspire belief in others, a belief which is itself a gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the battle that we are engaged in. As I reflect on this Gospel, I think of myself, as that member of the mystical body of Christ, being missioned with that same task: to go and bear witness to Jesus that others might come to faith and that none might be lost.

I invite you as we enter into the Lord's Day celebration, to take this to heart. Other words that come to mind are those from Frank Sheed:

"The church on earth is at war. We must understand what the warfare is. It is being fought not simply to enlarge the church, but to bring souls into union with Christ. It is that strangest of wars which is fought for our enemy, not against him. Even the term *enemy* must not be allowed to mislead."

As members of the mystical body of Christ then, we can read this Gospel in a very personal way, saying, "I so loved the world that God sent His only Son that all who should believe." So, I am being sent into the world, not only for me to believe but for me to help others. As a member of the mystical body of Christ, we can also read this gospel as, "For God so loved the world that He sent his sons and daughters into the world as members of the church, that all who should come to belief would not perish but would enjoy life everlasting."

This is a very small reflection for this Sunday, but I invite you to take this to heart as we reflect on the Word of God in this very strange time, that we have this one great true missionary call: that I might come to know Jesus, that you might come to know Jesus, that we all might come to know Jesus. God is sending us. Will we go? Will we let Him be known?