



Evangelizing Through Unity

In this morning's first reading, the Holy Spirit prompts the church in Antioch to send two of their leading and most gifted members on the mission, Paul and Barnabas. There might have been those in the church of Antioch at the time who said, 'no, we can't let two such key people leave. They are needed here'. As communities, as individuals, there is a natural temptation to hold on to what we have. We resist deliberately making ourselves poorer. Yet, that is what the Holy Spirit was asking the church in Antioch to do, to make itself poorer, to let go of two of its greatest assets so that those who had never heard the gospel might be brought to Christ. The ways of the Holy Spirit today in the church are probably not very different from the ways of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the church. The Spirit prompts us to take the way of Jesus, which is the way of self-emptying so that others might have life.

How is it that those who looked at Jesus were looking also at the Father?

The answer is quite simple. The unity that the Father and the Son share is a perfect unity. They remain distinct Persons but they are also united as one. They are united in their perfect love and in the perfect communion of their wills. For that reason, knowing Jesus is also knowing the Father.

But the truth is that the Father's presence is veiled just as the divinity of the Son is veiled. Though we do not have the experience of seeing Jesus walk the Earth as the first disciples did, we find the same reality every time we come before the Holy Eucharist. When we enter a church and genuflect before the tabernacle, it's important to always be exceptionally knowing of the fact that we are in the full divine presence of God the Son. And for that reason, we are also in the full and divine presence of the Father! Their

presence is real and absolute. It's just that they are hidden from our five senses.

But one key thing to ponder here is the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because we are called to share in their unity, and we are called to share in unity with one another.

Unity is hard. It takes a tremendous amount of love. It means being fully present to the other, seeking to fully understand, accept and know them. And the Trinity is our model for this. Be it, parents and children, spouses, friends or others, we are called to a deep and abiding unity. This is one of the wonderful ways to evangelize and bring God to those whom we know and love.

Let us pray:

Lord, help me to come to know and love You and, in that relationship, to come to know and love the Father and the Holy Spirit. And as I grow in love for You Most Holy Trinity, help me to bring that love into every relationship I have so that I may be an instrument of Your love to others.

Jesus, I trust in You.