

Readings

Dt 4:32-34, 39-40

Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

Rom 8:14-17

Mt 28:16-20

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The other day when I was either brushing my teeth or shaving, I had quite the scare. With a quick glance in the mirror, I got a glimpse of my father. Now, he wasn't really there. It was just the way I looked in the mirror, the face I was making, maybe the particular angle at which I was looking, I saw my dad in myself, and I can recall saying out loud, "Whoa, I'm becoming my father!" Not like that's a bad thing...honest!

Isn't it something how genes and DNA work? Isn't it shocking at times how much we can resemble one another? And certainly it doesn't even need to be simply those who are biologically related. Any one of us can start to resemble one another, by the way we dress, the way we act, and even the mannerisms we can start to pick up, oftentimes unknowingly.

On this great solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we boldly celebrate and affirm the Mystery of our God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one of our most basic, core beliefs as Catholics that we fail to grasp completely. Try as we might, we come up short in our explanations. We will rightly speak of God as One-in-Three and Three-in-One, but Hollywood can have our mind go to the Three Musketeers. St. Patrick used the Shamrock as a way in. And, of course, we know the story told of St. Augustine walking along the beach noticing a young boy trying to capture the ocean in a hole, who says to him, after Augustine tells him how ridiculous of a task that is, "Just as this is impossible to do, so, too, is it to capture the Trinity."

But maybe, just maybe, a mirror may help us deepen - or, better yet, reflect!- our understanding and our experience of this very Mystery. What is it that a mirror does? It reflects back to us. We can see ourselves in it. We can even see other people in it sometimes, as in resemblance.

The revelation of this Mystery that the Church has received is one first mirrored to us, in and through Jesus. We hear in the Gospel, how Jesus tells his disciples, "I am with you always." And just last week we celebrated Pentecost in which we mark that Jesus breathed upon the Church the Holy Spirit, pulling us into the very Mystery of this God Whom we celebrate, making us God's children, as we heard in the second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

If this is the case, then, by virtue of our Baptism, do we not, or should we not, reflect and mirror this very Mystery in our lives? Would it not be the case that a glance, a glimpse, a resemblance of God at work in our lives be seen in and through us and in our encounters? Should we not work to reflect and mirror God and the ways of God in our lives?

For just as a mirror, the Trinity reflects back to us something very important about God - that God is, first and foremost, united, a unity of relationships, Father, Son, and Spirit. And it reflects something very important about ourselves, that we are made, then, for unity, for relationship. In other words, we should be able to see ourselves as who God wants us to be and become - people of unity, people who create and respect all that is around them, people who save and take part in each other's salvation, people who guide and love one another along the way. At first glance this might cause quite the scare, but it is not scary at all. It should cause fear, for sure, but not a scary type of fear. Rather, what Scripture calls, Fear of the Lord.