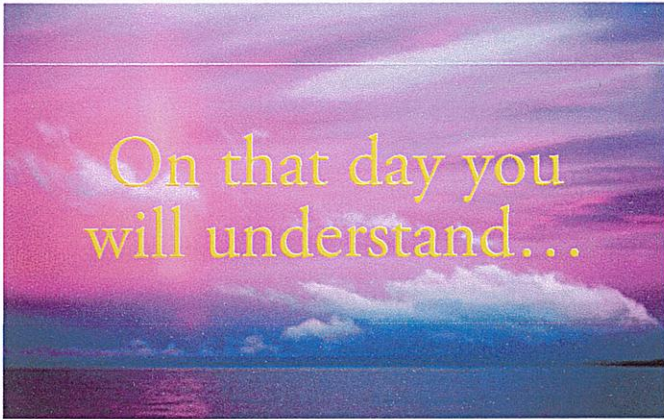


Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



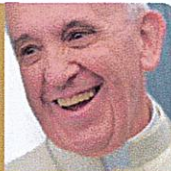
The gospel reading for this Sunday makes it clear that as Christians we participate in nothing less than the life of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus promises his disciples that the Father will give them the gift of the Holy Spirit and that they will be in him (Jesus) and he (Jesus) is in the Father. However, there is a condition: that we keep

his commandments. And we know what is his supreme commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. There is no getting around this condition. And our love cannot be mere pious sentimentality. Jesus made this clear when he, the Master, washed the feet of his disciples and told them to do the same. Nor can our love make discriminations about who to love. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows us that I am called to love whoever needs my help. Above all, this love must be reciprocal. This means that the aim of my love must not be reduced to a one-way giving.

True love always seeks a relationship. There cannot be a game of tennis unless the serve is returned. There cannot be a handshake unless the two hands come together. Jesus models this reciprocity of love for us in his relationship with the Father when he tells us that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. On Holy Thursday night Jesus prayed: "...that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us... I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one" (Jn 17:21,23).



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

283. Sincere and humble worship of God "bears fruit not in discrimination, hatred and violence, but in respect for the sacredness of life, respect for the dignity and freedom of others, and loving commitment to the welfare of all".²⁸⁰ Truly, "whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). For this reason, "terrorism is deplorable and threatens the security of people – be they in the East or the West, the North or the South – and disseminates panic, terror and pessimism, but this is not due to religion, even when terrorists instrumentalize it. It is due, rather, to an accumulation of incorrect interpretations of religious texts and to policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression and pride. That is why it is so necessary to stop supporting terrorist movements fuelled by financing, the provision of weapons and strategy, and by attempts to justify these movements, even using the media. All these must be regarded as international crimes that threaten security and world peace. Such terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and expressions".²⁸¹ Religious convictions about the sacred meaning of human life permit us "to recognize the fundamental values of our common humanity, values in the name of which we can and must cooperate, build and dialogue, pardon and grow; this will allow different voices to unite in creating a melody of sublime nobility and beauty, instead of fanatical cries of hatred".²⁸²

280. Homily, Colombo, Sri Lanka (14 January 2015); AAS 107 (2015), 139.
281. Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu Dhabi (4 February 2019); L'Osservatore Romano, 4-5 February 2019, p. 7.
282. Address to Civil Authorities, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (6 June 2015); L'Osservatore Romano, 7 June 2015, p. 7.

Pope Benedict XVI

Angelus 7 June 2009

Three Persons who are one God because the Father is love, the Son is love, the Spirit is love. God is wholly and only love, the purest, infinite and eternal love. He does not live in splendid solitude but rather is an inexhaustible source of life that is ceaselessly given and communicated... The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: love alone makes us happy because we live in a relationship, and we live to love and to be loved. Borrowing an analogy from biology, we could say that imprinted upon his "genome", the human being bears a profound mark of the Trinity, of God as Love. The Virgin Mary, in her docile humility, became the handmaid of divine Love: she accepted the Father's will and conceived the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. In her the Almighty built a temple worthy of him and made her the model and image of the Church, mystery and house of communion for all human beings.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 48:20

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16, 20. R.1

R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.*or:* **Alleluia.**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God:
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
Let our joy, then, be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,
nor withhold from me his merciful love.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 3:15-18

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for

a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**Alleluia, alleluia.**

John 14:23

**If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

- R.** May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.
- R.** Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 14:15-16

- R.** **If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- R.** Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.