

Homily for Trinity Sunday  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish  
June 3, 2007

#### Introduction

Our Lady Queen of Peace sometimes gets criticized for our "horizontal" homilies, homilies concerned with faith life in this world, with concern for one another, for humanity and for ourselves. It is said that we do not pay enough attention to the "vertical" dimension of our faith - that our preaching does not concern itself with God, our life in God, God's life in us.

This may be a valid criticism.

#### I

Whatever the case, today we are almost forced to address this "vertical" dimension of faith. The Feast of the Holy Trinity is the feast of God's very life and of God's attributes and action.

And yet trying to encompass God's life and being is an impossible task. It would take an eternity to plumb the heights and depths, the breadth and length of the Infinite.

So let me simply make one or two observations on this special Feast of God.

#### II

You may have noticed when I proclaimed the Gospel just now that I used the feminine pronoun in reference to the Holy Spirit. This was not to be cutesy or trendy but simply to say that we cannot limit God to a "He" - God is unnameable, ungraspable - beyond our ability to capture or describe in words. When we say that God is "Father" or "Mother", or "Our Rock", "Our Strength", "Our Bulwark", "Our Light", we are saying something that is true - and incomplete. God is always more, always beyond, always transcendent.

#### III

Likewise in terms of today's Feast we generally call God "Father, Son and Holy Spirit". Sometimes we say "Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier", or "Source of All Being, Eternal Word, Holy Spirit. Again, these are all true and all incomplete.

#### IV

Finally, what today's Feast does tell us is that God is Community - Unity in Threeness, a relationship of love and truth, the model and exemplar of all human communities.

What a tragedy, then, to see humanity, God's daughters and sons so divided by violence and poverty.

What a blessing to see parishes like Our Lady Queen of Peace striving to be communities within our diversity.

#### Conclusion

Let me conclude with a reference to the founder of my Franciscan Order, St. Francis of Assisi. Very often, we're told, Francis prayed this prayer, which sums up much of what I've tried to say here: "Who are You, Oh God; and who am I".