

***Bishop Jodoin's Homely for the  
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
At the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bathurst***

You have probably seen the 90s movie "Ghost", with Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. I remember a specific scene where there are suddenly two hands making a vase out of clay on a potter's wheel. Well imagine that, at the very beginning of the Church, St Irénée de Lyon chose this same image to illustrate the Trinity: God the Father is the potter, who with his two hands, his Son and the Holy Spirit, shaped all of creation. God the Father, with these same two hands, his Son and the Holy Spirit, continues to shape us in his image and likeness. Here is the one in whom we believe, this God who has been revealed to us.

If one day someone asks you to define what the Trinity is, you will have only one word to say: Love. Yes, God is love, as Saint John so aptly said: *"Love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."* (1 Jn 4, 7-8) God is love, he is a communion of people, and he is a being of relationships. Because love is a gift and supposes a relationship with people other than oneself, if not this love is narcissistic and closed in on oneself. Created in the image and likeness of God, we feel it well ... for during this time of confinement, loneliness weighed on us. We have often felt the need to be in touch with relatives, friends or colleagues, whether by telephone, internet, zoom or other means at our disposal. We were all looking forward to de-confinement, and we hope that in the near future we will be able to hug another person again without fear. Because we are in the image of God, people of relationships.

God wanted to be in relationship with us, his beloved children. In the first reading, God revealed himself to Moses *"as a Father God, a tender and merciful God, slow to anger and full of love and truth."* A God who does not want to remain distant from us, but on the contrary, who wants to *"walk among us"*.

He sent us his beloved Son, who became one of us, our brother in humanity, the Emmanuel (God with us and among us). It was He, who introduced us to the true face of God, *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father?"* (Jn 14, 9).... *"No one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."* (Luke 10, 22).

Jesus revealed this to us throughout his entire passage among us: a God full of love, compassion and forgiveness for prostitutes, tax collectors, sinners, shepherds deemed unworthy, lepers. A myriad of persons immediately come to mind: the Samaritan woman, the adulterous woman, the prodigal son, Zacheus, the good thief on the cross and how many others. We thus discovered a God who, through his love, wants to be a source of life... of eternal life for us.

This God of Love, not only did He reveal Himself to us, but desired also to be in eternal fellowship with us. To do this, He sent his Spirit to us, this Spirit of love between the Father and the Son. We the Baptized (and the confirmed), we were immersed not only in water but in the Trinity itself, immersed in the very God who is love. This Spirit is a force that we receive each time we celebrate a sacrament; a sacrament being always, an encounter with Christ. This is the source of our joy as Christians, in knowing that God exists, that He is love and that He loves us forever.

*“God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world but to save it. Whoever believes escapes judgment, whoever does not believe is already judged.”* Indeed, God offers us his love ... and it is up to each of us to accept it or not; to prefer life to death, light to darkness, love to solitude. It is a choice to be made personally and will be, at the same time, our judgment.

We often hear that all religions are equal because we all believe in God. This is not entirely correct because what is behind the word God is not identical. As Christians, we have the conviction and the certainty of truly knowing whom this unique God is, thanks to Christ his Son who revealed him to us and by his Spirit who lives in us now. This is our signature! Every signature is unique and so is our signature as a Christian. The sign of the cross is our signature. Which we do, in the name of God the Father of whom we are the beloved children, in the name of the Son, Christ, our Savior who is now our brother and in the name of the Holy Spirit, this divine Spirit which animates us and which puts us in relation, in common union with the Trinity itself.

The sign of the cross is the ultimate expression of our identity ... only Christians make the sign of the cross. You will never see an atheist, a Jew, a Muslim, or a Hindu making the sign of the cross. It is truly our signature, and the expression of our faith in this loving God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

On this, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, let us be loved by God, and like Him, become lovers, every minute of every day of our lives. As Saint Paul said to the young Christian communities: *“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”* Amen