

Grace Notes in Miniature,

Monday June 8th, 2020

Dear friends:

Just a few words to round out our thoughts on the Trinity.

Yesterday I had a lot of pleasure in listening to the homilies of several priests as they shared insights into the Holy Trinity, and in a way that I had not particularly absorbed before. You may enjoy listening to Bishop Robert Barron whose words really caught my attention:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gvYoLYW9OE> I particularly appreciated his use of a quotation of St Augustine, "Si comprehendis non est Deus" > if you understand it isn't God.

Although all of them stated that, ultimately the Trinity is a mystery, they also tended to agree that the Trinity is a beautiful expression of God's love, expressed as God the Father being the Lover, God the Son being the Beloved, and the Holy Spirit being the expression of the love.

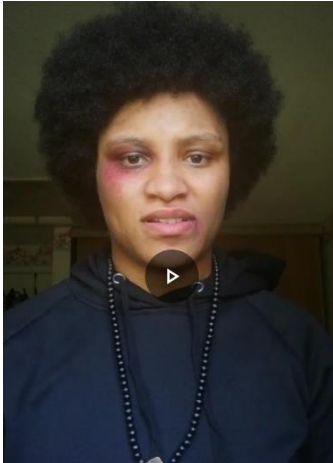
Unlike other gods/understandings of God, we proclaim that God **is** love; and, if we are made in the image of God, then we are called to **be** love also. 1 John 4:16 says it so well: God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV-f92IbN2U>

When we think of Christianity and how central love is to our understanding of who we are, it is impossible not to be drawn into the dreadful sadness of the demonstrations and riots against racism going on particularly in the US but in many other countries too. This sermon from 100 years ago has us pleading, "How long, O Lord?" (Psalm 13). Please note that because of the age of this piece, some of the content may be worded in ways we would no longer consider appropriate. For that reason, you may wish to be judicious in sharing this with students unless you impress on them the historicity of the use of language. https://www.tulsaohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/E-D-Mouzon_Tulsa-Race-Riot-Sermon_Christian-Advocate-07141921_and-transcription-00000003.pdf You may like to listen to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbcE2HRhryQ>

I was speaking with one of my former Army Cadets, a young woman who proudly wore the uniform and served well until she "aged out" of the youth organisation and who hopes to return as an adult leader. She is doing a theatre program and wrote the following poem which she also recorded as a piece of performance art. Unfortunately, I couldn't download the performance but wanted to include the poetry. That this stream of consciousness piece came from a young woman, a good student with well-developed leadership and citizenship attributes really stunned me; I have never been quite so aware before of having grown up – and old – with white privilege. I know that this is not an experience my grandchildren would anticipate.



DON'T SHOOT/POLICE BRUTALITY



Wrong place wrong time always fitting the description
At this point how I respond doesn't really make a difference

One shot bang my life is over before It begun
It's crazy to think that I lived and died by the gun

I ask myself what did i ever do to deserve this
even though I clearly know they just think that I am worthless

Just do what they say don't panic they will think you look suspicious
Or get in there head you might do something malicious

Hearts pounding out my chest I don't know what else to do
If I move one muscle they may just shoot

Your clear have a nice day they walk back to their car

I feel so horrified so scarred but I know this isn't the end because I know that to someone else they will probably
do this again;

shoot first ask questions later it has been this way it is for years

I am tired of turning on the TV and being in tears

I gotta ask myself Is it gonna be this way forever

Or are we gonna be able to sever this vicious cycle

And make it better for the future generations

So they won't have to feel the pain from many nations

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Thanks to Joanne McKay, Pastoral Animator, Queen of Heaven School, for sharing this prayer: It is part of a service found at https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/prayers_reflections/prayer-for-racial-healing/

God of justice, In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eerjElgk4Dg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP2gwC5TGFs>

*May the love inspired by the Holy Trinity be expressed in all our dealings,
Gillian*

