

TRINITY SUNDAY AND MEMORIAL DAY?

There were three different people whom Jesus raised from death before He died. The daughter of Jairus. Jesus was on his way to cure her when the report reached Jairus that his twelve-year old daughter was dead. Jesus continued on with Jairus and asked him to believe anyway. Jairus does and Jesus takes the little girl by the hand and says: "Little girl, get up." And she does. He gives her back to his parents.

Then there was the funeral procession leaving the little town of Nain where a young man's funeral procession was carrying him out of town to lay him to rest. He was followed by his widowed mother. Her only son. Jesus stops the pallbearers and the funeral procession. He touches the man and bids him rise. And the man sits up and Jesus gives him back to his mother.

And then of course there is his good friend Lazarus who is sick and Jesus stays away—too long. His friend Lazarus dies. Lazarus' sisters say to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here my brother would never had died." Jesus weeps himself but also knows that this is not to end in Lazarus' death. Jesus calls into the tomb after the stone has been rolled away calling Lazarus to "Come out," Lazarus lurches forward from the tomb carrying nothing with him but still wrapped in the burial cloths. "Unbind him and let him go free." Three instances of raising a person from death. But they did not happen one right on top of the other. Who noticed that there were three distinct victories?

We have all have heard the expression about how things come in threes. And there are three occasions where Jesus predicts not only his own passion but his resurrection as well. Often when I sneeze I sneeze three times. Sometimes when you hear of two deaths quickly you will seek to identify a third. Why do things come in threes? And do they come in threes? Isn't that thinking a little superstitious?

Is it good things that come in threes? Or is it bad things that come in threes? Jesus never says anything directly about things coming in threes. However, today's feast of the Most Holy Trinity is given to us because our faith in Jesus Christ has revealed something of the inner life of God to us. I personally do not know if things come in threes but I am happy that God is one and three and that God has chosen to reveal something of the inner life of the Godhead to ordinary people like you and me.

Usually we shrink before the mystery of the Trinity but there is good stuff there—stuff that is helpful for us to know. God would not reveal it otherwise. And this "Threeness deep down things" is everywhere. We sign ourselves with the three persons of the Trinity many times a day. Yesterday I baptized a little girl named Evelyn in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As a by-product of being baptized God reveals himself, his innermost secret, his very interior life and its dynamic. God is an eternal exchange of love that goes on always and forever. In addition, God wants you and me and all of us to enter into that divine dynamic

exchange of love, that giving of self and that receiving of self. God desires each of us to live in that love forever. We are invited to live in God. God asks to be able to live in us in turn. The Indwelling of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). So, does this revelation, this God choosing to reveal part of his very inner life have any practical and real world effects on us?

Yes. A few. One, God in effect has said to you: “WE want you to exist. WE made you. WE have always wanted you to exist. AND, WE have always wanted to live in you. WE brought you into life. WE did it on purpose. We have things WE want you to be doing, things for you to accomplish, lives WE want you to touch, impact, shape—and people WE want you to love.”

Two. “WE love you. WE desire you live in our love AND WE want to live in your love—all of us. Father. Son. Spirit.”

Three. “WE have enfolded you in our love already in and through your baptism AND WE await your invitation to enter your soul and abide there.”

Four. “The Beloved Son whom you call Jesus has been sent on a mission. To call God, Abba. To draw everyone back to Abba and to graft you all into Christ so that you will live in Christ forever.”

There is a lot more in this making of the Sign of the Cross than first meets the eye. But it is all good stuff. Actually it’s the best stuff. It’s the best way to live—here and anywhere.