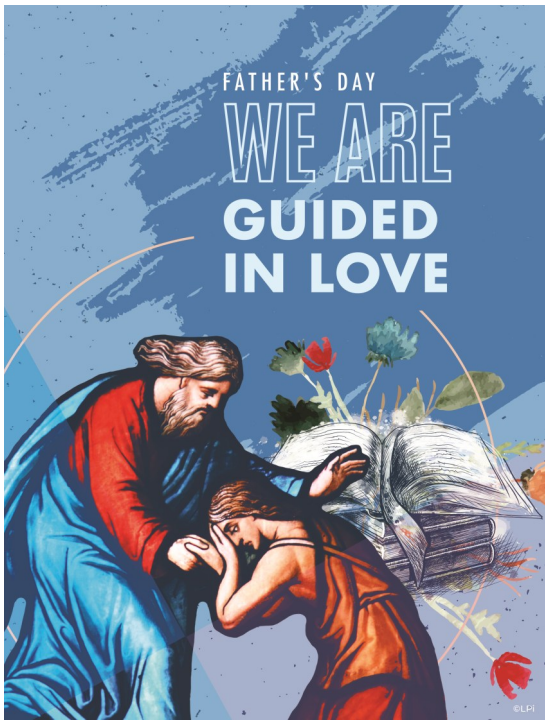


FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to all who helped prepare for and/or participated in our Parish Feast Day events this past Monday! It was a day filled with Faith, joy, and fellowship, despite the rain in the morning, as we honored Our Blessed Mother using her title and our namesake, Our Lady Mother of the Church. It is easy to remember the date of our Parish Feast Day. It is always the Monday after Pentecost Sunday.

To all our fathers, Happy Father's Day! To our fathers who have gone before us, eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let us not forget that it is first and foremost God's Father's Day; all fatherhood comes from God.

Today we celebrate Most Holy Trinity Sunday. The Trinity: a perfect relationship of three persons and yet one God. May the Most Holy Trinity teach us to relate to one another. What follows is a lesson about this mystery of our Faith.

1. The Teaching on the Trinity Explored - *The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons: [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]...The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God, whole and entire* (Catechism, 253). It is our human experience that if there is only one of something and someone possesses it fully, then there is nothing left for anyone else. Yet, mysteriously, each of the three persons of the Trinity fully possesses the one and only divine nature, while remaining a distinct person.
2. The Teaching on the Trinity Exhibited - Scripture also presents images of the Trinity. *"Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* (Genesis 1:26) God speaks of himself in the plural: "Let us...our..." Some claim that this is just an instance of the "royal we" being used. Perhaps, but others see an image of the Trinity. There is one ("God said") but there is also a plural (us, our). Right at the very beginning in Genesis there is already a hint that God is not all by himself, but rather is in a communion of love. Some other examples: Elohim - It is interesting to note that this word is in the plural form. From a grammatical standpoint, Elohim actually means "Gods," but the Jewish people understood the sense of the word to be singular. Genesis 18:1-5 - Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, and said, "My Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant." Exodus 34:5 - The Lord passed before him and cried out, "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Isaiah 6:1-3 - Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Matthew 28:19 - Baptize them in the name (not names (plural)) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. John 10:30 - Jesus says, The Father and I are one. John 14:9 - To have seen me is to have seen the Father.
3. The Teaching of the Trinity Experienced - We who are made in the image and likeness of God ought to experience something of the mystery of the Trinity within us. It is clear that we are all distinct individuals. I am not you; you are not I. Yet it is also true that we are made for communion. No man is a rock or an island. We are individual, but we are social. We have entered into perilous times where our interdependence and communal influence are under appreciated. The attitude that it is none of my business what others do needs some attention. The best image of God in us is not a man alone, or a woman alone, but, rather, a man and a woman together in a lasting and fruitful relationship we call marriage.

Peace,