Homily Trinity 2020

I have a number of friends who have asked why good things happen to me. I respond with the quip, “Because God loves me.” They immediately jump to the conclusion with the words, “Does that mean God does not love me?” I have wondered over the years why people often jump to that conclusion. Why do people think God does not love them? One of the answers I have come to is that people do not think of themselves as worthy of God’s love. They often focus on their faults, failings, and inadequacies. They equate God’s love for them with the good they do. This is such a false notion.

Our God tells us in the Gospel today, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son…” Do we think that over 2000 years ago the world was worthy of Jesus? Was Jesus born into a perfect world? Of course not. He came to free us from our sinfulness. Love is not conditioned on the goodness of ourselves or the other.

Another example is how often we have been told or said, “You must earn my respect.” Why must I earn it? Why is respect not readily given? Do we ever say to our newborn child, “You must be good or I will not love you,” or “you must earn my respect?” No, we freely give our love and respect to this child. Why, as that child matures, do we then say they must earn respect? Isn’t it out of our experiences that we condition our love and respect? When we are hurt, betrayed, and falsely accused, do we not set up barriers to the other? We are acting out of pain, resentment, and pride.

What would be our response if we acted out of forgiveness, compassion, and understanding? If we turned to the other and asked, “Why would you say this or why would you do such and such?” What would be our response if we tried to accompany them in their journey of life and tried to understand their experiences of life, what helped to shape them? What would our words of forgiveness sound like?

Love is a pure gift of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The love among them is at the core of their being. Out of Love the Father begets the Son and the Love between them is the Holy Spirit. This is God’s self-revelation to us. From the beginning of creation God has loved all that he has created. He has seen it as good, very good. In the course of our human history God has shown over and over again that He loves us and calls us to be renewed by Him. True love does not give up on the other. God does not give up on us. John the Evangelist goes on to say, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

In these most challenging of times let us not give up on one another. Let us realize we are all created in His likeness. That our dignity comes from God and not from what we do. We cannot lose God’s love. He loves each of us even in our sinfulness and goodness. It is His love that will draw us out of sin into His life. This is the time to unite with one another and model the Most Holy Trinity, distinct in person, one in unity. Remember, God loves you!