



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Trinity (C)

June 16, 2019

The Ultimate Guide

By Mary Katharine Deeley

There was a period in my life when I thought I knew everything and that my way was the only way to go. The opinions of my parents and friends were politely (and sometimes not-so-politely) set aside. I blithely followed my own advice and did my own thing until time, maturity, and a few uncomfortable situations helped me to acquire a little humility. Even these days I suffer a relapse from time to time. I'm sure we have all thought: "*Be reasonable: Do it my way.*"

We may tend to think quite often that we know what's best for us and for others. We rely on our experience and

intelligence. Sometimes we're right. Often we're wrong. When our self-confidence and power become more important than the truth and common good, we easily stray into arrogance and stubbornness.

Jesus reminds us that the Holy Spirit, whom he calls the Spirit of Truth, is the ultimate guide. In choosing to follow the Spirit and accepting Christ's authority, we admit that we do not know it all and that we are not the greatest.

Our Creed is built on this acceptance. From our first profession of faith, we stand in humble awareness that God alone knows it all and desires what's best for us and the whole world. This "best" includes God, who is an everlasting relationship-in-being: three persons who were at the beginning, are now, and ever shall be. Our celebration of the Trinity should include giving thanks for the wisdom that comes from union with God and his Church. +

Sunday Readings

Proverbs 8:22–31

When he established the heavens, there was I.

Romans 5:1–5

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

John 16:12–15

[Jesus said.] "When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

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Christ's authority,
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we do not know it all—
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A Word from Pope Francis

The mystery of the Trinity also speaks to us of ourselves, of our relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In fact, through baptism, the Holy Spirit has placed us in the heart and the very life of God.

—Angelus, May 22, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I humbly give credit and thanks to God for my gifts and successes?
- When has my self-confidence crossed the line to arrogance or stubbornness?

The Virtues of a Father

By Robert P. Lockwood

My Old Man would never think of wasting time on anything as unproductive as sleep on a Sunday morning. When I was a little guy, he would haul me out of bed for the 8 AM Mass. We'd get there early, and he'd plop me down in one of the back pews while he went to the vestibule to serve as an usher.

After Mass, I watched as he and another man bagged up the money from the collection. I asked him why two guys did it, and he said, "Just in case somebody wants to try something." This made me think that, in addition to everything else, my Old Man was a cop for the Church.

Fathers teach their children how to face the world.

One Sunday when I was about seven, I was in my usual spot as the collection began. I reached into my pocket and realized that I had lost the kids' collection envelope. I had a quarter in my pocket that the Old Man had let me keep from his change for coffee. I had no choice. I put the quarter in the basket, saying goodbye to a comic book I had planned to buy with it.

As we were heading home after Mass,



I told the Old Man what happened. He said, "You did a good thing," then reached into his pocket and handed me a quarter. I believed then, and believed for years, that the Old Man had spotted my quarter among the hundreds of quarters in the collection, plucked it out, and substituted another. It seemed

natural that he could perform a little miracle like that. After all, he was my Old Man.

Teaching by Doing

"The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,' and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, [namely] 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:9-10).

What St. Paul is talking about here is virtue, the habit of performing actions for good. Virtue defines how we are meant to live our lives. Virtue is what we admire in others and hope to see in ourselves.

It was only after I became a father myself that I realized that 99 percent of what my father did, 99 percent of what he tried to teach me, was the virtues lived.

The Old Man was never much about the

theory behind the practice, the thesis behind the moral choices. He was all about living the faith on the street corner. He was about what you did and what you didn't do and the difference it made in the neighborhood that day. Classically defined, the virtues we acquire through the repetition of good acts are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. Every day, the Old Man was working on those with me.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

Why are fathers so important? More than anything else, fathers teach their children how to face the world on a daily basis. Fathers are all about the virtues lived. They don't hand out their lessons where the angels dance on the head of a pin. Fathers teach at that point where the rubber meets the road.

That was my Old Man's method, and I did my best to listen. After all, he was a cop for the Church. +



Lord, you willingly gave up your life for the salvation of the world.

Give me the courage to love freely and unconditionally.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 17-22

Monday, Weekday:
2 Cor 6:1-10 / Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 8:1-9 / Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 9:6-11 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:1-11 / Mt 6:7-15

Friday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:
2 Cor 11:18, 21-30 / Mt 6:19-23

Saturday, Weekday:
2 Cor 12:1-10 / Mt 6:24-34