

Read

Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

LIVING THE WORD

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

June 16, 2019



REFLECTION

What is the charism of your church or your Catholic school? Usually each parish is named after a saint or the holy name of Jesus or Mary. Often a parish will highlight in their ministries the charism their congregation lives out. Sometimes it is the charism of hospitality, prophecy, healing, or almsgiving. There are many charisms listed in the New Testament. In fact, there are twenty-seven! The Holy Spirit has gifted the Church with many ways to live out our faith. In a homily Pope Francis gave in 2014 in Istanbul, he shared, "The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. He gives life, he brings forth different charisms which enrich the people of God, and above all, he creates unity among believers: from the many he makes one body, the Body of Christ. The Church's whole life and mission depend on the Holy Spirit; he fulfils all things." Consider how your parish community lives this out and how you help to share the parish charism with others.

? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ How can you lean on the Holy Spirit this week to help you identify your gifts?
- ❖ Where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your parish or youth group?



ACTION

Determine what your "charism" or gift is that drives you each day. Are you a helper? A leader? A healer? Identify your gifts through an online spiritual gifts test or check with your parish as there may be a facilitator on staff who can help you identify your natural spiritual gifts. Reflect on these charisms in your life and consider how you might live more into these gifts as a part of your career, relationships, and as a faithful Catholic.



Introduction to **ORDINARY TIME** **DURING SPRING AND SUMMER**



The Season

The Gospel accounts in Ordinary Time during the spring and summer draw us deeply into the life of God and the life of the Christian disciple. Ordinary Time resumes following the fifty-day season of Easter Time, with the Solemnities of the Most Holy Trinity and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). These pivotal Sundays focus our attention on the inner life of God as we can perceive it, and the impact this life is to have on our lives. With the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we are reminded that God's way is the way of self-giving love. Reflecting on these mysteries is a fitting way to transition into Ordinary Time, in which we explore the demands of discipleship and the impact a life of discipleship is to have on us and on all whom we touch.

In these weeks of Ordinary Time, we hear familiar stories of people who encounter Christ, and we are asked to consider how the people we meet may encounter Christ through us. This is an eternal story of the ongoing life of the Church, and a story that is very personal for each of us. Our regular reflection on the Sunday Gospel accounts helps us remember that our call is not a once-and-done but rather an always-and-everywhere invitation to live as Christ's people. Our reflections each week encourage us to consider the circumstances of our lives, the lives of people whom we know and those whom we do not, and how Christ's love, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion will have a lasting impact on us all. These reflections help us remember that while Ordinary Time is time that is counted, it is never ordinary, since the life of the disciple is anything but that!

Ordinary Time Environment

The place where you gather with teens should mirror the liturgical environment in the church worship space. The green of Ordinary Time returns with this season and mirrors the green and new life of spring. Include in your prayer environment various shades of green, along with the Lectionary or Book of the Gospels, open to the Gospel for Sunday. Consider establishing an environment that has elements that the teens may take with them as you conclude your sessions for the summer, such as small flowers, personal crucifixes, or holy cards.

Ordinary Time with Teens

The weeks following Easter are often filled with special moments in the lives of teenagers, such as dances and social gatherings, graduations and plans for life beyond junior high or high school, awards recognition and the close of spring athletic teams, and summer plans. Giving Sunday Mass and the Gospel the priority they deserve may be a challenge for some of your teens in this time of the year. Be aware of the many things vying for their attention, and encourage them to prioritize their time well. Acknowledge your youth's presence at Mass and your gatherings as a sign of their commitment to Christ.



June 16, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

LECTIONARY #166C

Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Today, the Church celebrates the Trinity: three Persons in one divine nature. The Gospel gives us an excellent insight into the divine relationship. God gives everything to the Son, who gives to us through the Spirit. The relationship is one of mutual giving and sharing, which illustrates God's living example of what it means to love.

Q FOCUS: *The Holy Spirit helps us know and imitate Jesus.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Last week, the Solemnity of Pentecost celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit. This week, we celebrate the complete Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit. The Trinity is one of our most foundational beliefs about the nature of God, and is honored with many prayers. The words of the Sign of the Cross are Trinitarian: in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So is the “Glory be” prayer. So is the Nicene Creed (of course, since this council was all about the nature of the three Divine Persons). Catholics may not realize it, but we do almost everything in the name of the Trinity.

Church Teaching Connection

“No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.’ ‘God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”’ This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us. By virtue of our Baptism, the first sacrament of the faith, the Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 683; quoting 1 Corinthians 12:3 and Galatians 4:6).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 16:12-15

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this

reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

► “Wait until you're older.” How many of you have heard this statement? Who said it to you, and what were you and that person talking about?

Sometimes it seems as if the process of growing up involves a lot of this sort of waiting, waiting until you're old enough to go to high school, to drive, to date, to vote, to graduate, to go to college, to get your own job, to get married, to move into your own house. Few people enjoy this sort of waiting.

► But why do you think we need to wait to do certain things?

► For example, what would happen if we let five-year-olds drive SUVs?

► What skills do you need to drive that a five-year-old doesn't have?

► What about the maturity level needed?

► Have you seen a kindergartener miss their nap? How do they act?

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus telling his disciples something similar. They cannot understand and accept all that he would like to tell them (John 16:12). But he doesn't say there is a certain age or skill set needed to understand. Instead, he says it is receiving the Holy Spirit that enables them to know what Jesus knows. In other words, we need the Holy Spirit in order to think like God.

► Why do you think this is?

The divine characteristics that Jesus shows us are also different than what a lot of people think God is. In the last few years, old mythological belief systems have sprung up in popular culture with books dealing with Roman or Greek gods and TV shows and movies about the Norse gods. In each of those scenarios, the gods revel in their power over humans.

► Can you think of any examples?

Yet, look again at what Jesus says in this Gospel.

► Is Jesus hoarding his knowledge?

No! He doesn't try to keep anything away from us, but instead tells us that everything he has will be ours (John 16:15). He also reiterates that it's all from the Father. This is not the picture of competition, or of someone in authority consolidating power and demanding obedience for obedience's sake. Jesus declares that all he has is from the Father and it will be shared with us through the Spirit.

People think the Trinity is mysterious. This is true. But what we do know of the Trinity gives us a glimpse of how to be in relationship with others. Everyone has some type of power, authority, or knowledge.

► How are we to use it?

When we are serious about following Jesus, we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to Truth; we share what God has given us with others. This can be contrary to what we usually think. If we have trouble understanding or accepting what Jesus teaches, then we need to pray for the Spirit of Truth to guide us in all our attitudes and relationships.

Although we will never fully understand the Most Holy Trinity, the relationship of Divine Persons, we will grow in our understanding and experience of this mystery. Just as our relationship with our relatives and our friends grows as we get older and mature, so too our relationship with God will grow and mature. Each person of the Trinity helps us understand more about living as a child of God. We can see this clearly in the Sacrament of Confirmation when we experience God's grace in a special way. Through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, we are led to a deeper life in God.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 218.

Who are you more comfortable praying to: God the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit?

How does Jesus’ teaching and example lead us to being more generous?

Why would Jesus say we need the Holy Spirit to be as generous and loving as he is? How do you see this in your own life?

Act on the Word

Two Truths and a Lie

You will need paper, pens, or pencils.

For this game, all teens will take a turn saying three statements about themselves. Two of the statements will be true and one will be a lie. Others will try to guess which statement is the lie. Give the teens a minute to think about what their three statements will be. To begin, offer your own statements. For example, you might say the following:

1. I work for the Church.
2. I have wrestled with a bear.
3. I was born in the state of [catechist fills in the blank].

Unless you’re Davy Crockett, most likely the second statement is a lie. Or they can purposely state the wrong state or country they were born in. After all teens make their three statements, have the remaining teams guess which statement is a lie. The person who made the statements will let the group know if they are right or wrong.

After everyone has a verbal turn hand out paper and a pen. Each person in your group should state their name out loud. The teens should write down

the name. After each person has stated his or her name, teens should have a list of names written down. Challenge each teen to write down one true thing about each person that was stated during the game. They should not help each other this time. Everybody should make a list. You’ll need to give them some time, as they’ll be trying to remember and sort what they heard. When everyone is finished with their list, read off the first person’s name and let everyone chime in with their answers. If there are differing answers, let the teens discuss it without the named person’s input. Once the group has agreed on the “final answer,” the person will reveal if they are right or wrong. Depending on time, you may just choose a handful of people to focus on (choose those with the thickest skins).

Afterwards, discuss which is easier to remember, a truth or a lie? Does it seem fair? Let teens give examples (without names or gossiping) to illustrate their point. To conclude, remind them that our God is one of Truth, and the Holy Spirit will always help them know what is true and good and beautiful. They can ask for the Spirit’s guidance in prayer.

Closing Prayer

*O Most Holy Trinity,
one God, yet Three Persons,
you are the mystery in which we live.
Teach us to be faithful witnesses to you,
proclaiming the Good News in many ways
throughout our day.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.