

Second Hand Preacher

Trinity Sunday

June 11, 2017

John 3:16-18

One of my favorite actions to take as a priest is to bless. I bless people, I bless events, objects, and one time I even blessed a new intensive care unit in a hospital. What I love about blessing is it generally makes people think of God and they tend to be positive. The blessing may be done by me, but the real origin is from a Triune God. The Father and Son love each other so much, that their Spirit gifts and enlivens the whole world. Even when I bless an object, place, or event, I'm primarily blessing the people involved along with anyone else who may be prayed for with the object or at the activity. Blessing put us in touch with God for his greater glory.

St. Paul wants to mend a community. The Christians in Corinth have become divided in the way they celebrate the Eucharist and the way they treat each other in community. At their agape (the highest form of love) meals, which are what the early Mass was called, they were unequal in treatment. Some, in addition to the bread and wine, ate really fancy meals while their poorer counterparts barely got anything to eat. Paul saw this as a real problem. He writes to unify them and teach them how to better love each other. This is why they are to offer each other a holy kiss.

How do we treat our neighbor? Do we love them as much as God does? Probably not, but this should be something we strive for. The Trinity is the ultimate example of love. We are to model our human interactions by the way the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are connected. This is not an easy task. We will need to work on loving God and each other for the rest of our lives. May God's blessings give each of us an abundant life and may we continue to fall in love with God always.