

## ***The Most Holy Trinity*** ***June 7, 2020***

*"By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)*

With the Second Vatican Council's decree, *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, the Council Fathers spoke concerning the challenge of building a world enlivened by the law of love. This civilization of love would be "founded on the universal values of peace, solidarity, justice, and liberty, which find their full attainment in Christ." (TMA 52). This civilization would be based upon the realization that the Most Holy Trinity is the ultimate source of this love. As Catholics, we would now be encouraged to engage the various peoples of our world with and through this love.

As the Council Fathers wrote those words, they were quite aware of the growing number of nihilistic (a rejection of all religious and moral principles, believing life to be meaningless) ideologies which were present in various countries at that time. In our day, we have seen the fruits born from these ideologies which have robbed people of their spiritual dignity as children of the Most Holy Trinity. Instead, they have corrupted people through a form of "spiritual apathy." The "catholic" identity is now replaced with a "world's religion" identity; meaning no one's religious and moral values are greater than another's. A relationship with a transcendent and personal God is now considered an antiquated, unenlightened viewpoint. There is no better example I could give to prove the results of philosophies than what we have been able to witness playing out daily for the past few weeks in many of our major cities. The sheer acts of violence and destruction in the name of justice has many questioning what our future society will devolve into. Behaviors which would have been shunned are now being thrust upon us as the "New Normal." Pope Saint John Paul II rightly described this new normal when he first coined the phrase "the culture of death."

As we ponder how to deal with this ongoing problem which seeks to drown our society into the dehumanizing abyss, let us turn again to another famous phrase of Pope Saint John Paul II which is best described in the words - "the new evangelization." The Gospel of the Most Holy Trinity, best expressed through the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, can never be viewed as equal to or identical with the philosophies so prevalent today. Our Gospel of Love must always stand apart from what the world offers. It must not be a gospel preached to condone abhorrent actions and behaviors. Rather, it should call all good people to rise from this bog of self-loathing filth. We must again see first ourselves and then others as valuable, precious in the eyes of God.

The love of our Triune God seeks only to liberate every person reminding them that their ultimate destiny is not found here in our material world. It is found by those who seek daily His face through prayer, study, and heroic acts of kindness towards all of His children. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church encourages all of her members to live in and through this love. We are called to see within ourselves and others this God-like dignity. It is this dignity, not given by society, which seeks to transform society. It is the love which we have for the Most Holy Trinity which needs to be displayed through the way we treat every person in our society from those yet born to those who are at the end of life's journey. Let us honor the Trinity today by loving both ourselves and those around us.