

## 2020 TRINITY SUNDAY

In 1982 I lived in a three-person community in American Samoa. There was Br George, a Samoan, Br Thomas from the Bronx, New York and myself, a Kiwi.

As Marist Brothers, we shared the same values. We had the same priorities. All of us were well on top of our teaching. We were all good cooks and all had a healthy sense of humour. We were focused on creating a school which lived and breathed the Gospel of Jesus.

People enjoyed visiting us because there was always lots of laughter, lots of food and plenty of banter. And people did not hesitate to invite us out individually. Tom could enjoy the hospitality of friends knowing that George and I would be happily cracking one-liners at each other at home.

For satisfying, contented community living I am convinced that three is the perfect number. And so it makes perfect sense to me that God should be a community of three Persons; all sharing in one divine nature.

Because we, the three leaders of the School, were united and full of joy, our Volunteer teachers and the boys of our School, Marist High School, quickly came to reflect our positive attitude. The School was a very happy place.

And thus it is, I'm sure, with creation.

It strikes me that the unity and the harmony, the beauty and the creativity within creation are an echo of the unity and harmony, the beauty and the creativity within the Trinity.

Last Friday morning before joining Fr. Tovio for Morning Office, I ambled out onto the veranda at the back of my home because the day looked so glorious. I breathed in the wonderful freshness of the early morning. The sun was just rising- lighting the clouds golden orange- above Campion College. On the opposite horizon the moon- huge and powerful- was just setting. The large, bare tree in my backyard was alive with the song of birds- all singing, "Thank-you dear God, thank-you." The grass was a deep green after our recent rain. The sky was a light blue. Creation was resplendent - alive with the glory God.

And I immediately remembered Gerard Manley Hopkins's fabulous poem: 'God's Grandeur'. It begins: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil". And ends:

And the Holy Spirit over the bent world broods  
With warm breast and ah! Bright wings."

The beauty and peace of the morning simply reflected the beauty and the peace within the Creator: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God bends over our world with the love of a mother.

In those days in American Samoa, Br George was the key to the harmony within the School. All our pupils were Samoans and so was Br George.

While Br Tom and I did our best to empathize with our boys, Br George could do so intuitively. He understood the faa-Samoa because it was a part of him. He was the Brother the boys could most comfortably relate to.

God loved humanity from the very beginning. As we heard in our 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, He came to Moses on Mt Sinai proclaiming: "I am a God of tenderness and compassion, slow in anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness."

But the Sadducees and the Pharisees in Our Lord's day had no such understanding. The God they taught to the people was a God made in their own image: quick to be angered by even the smallest infraction of the Mosaic Law.

God, in the Person of Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Divine Trinity, became one of us - enabling us to come to God just as the boys used to go to Brother George. Because He was human like ourselves, we sense that He feels our pain. and knows our fears.

In His teachings, Jesus revealed God's inner being as a community of three equal Persons; infinitely loving, all sharing the one Nature of God.

The love and respect that Br George, Br Tom and I had for each other set the tone for Marist High School in 1982. We were one in our love for each other and did our best to embrace all who came to our School with love. And this love was returned to us many times over by our students; making the school a true reflection of what the Church is called to be.

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading St Paul exhorts the Corinthians to be just such a community: "Help one another. Be united; live in peace. Greet one another with a hug and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

And I know that when we first enter heaven- we will be welcomed with immense joy by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit- and we will quickly come to share and delight in their love, their laughter and their happiness. We will absolutely revel in it.

We have everything to look forward to.