



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider: God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of Exodus:

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O LORD, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, (52b)

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; and blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne upon the cherubim, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

R. Glory and praise for ever!

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

see Revelation 1:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John:

John 3:16-18

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv

Homi-flection for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Let me begin by saying this is my 3rd version of this homi-flection. Like many of you, everything that has been going on in our nation and communities have been on my mind and heart, and everything I have written seems inadequate or tone deaf. So I have decided in this present moment, to leave the what has been said by those better suited than me to continue to challenge me (...and hopefully all of us) and to give voice to what our world and society painfully, desperately cries out for: justice, life, action...

I've chosen, instead, to speak as I have always tried to: to the unsaid, the more uncomfortable corners of our hearts that are challenging, and a necessary part of our spiritual journeys and lives. These days, I've been thinking a lot about the words *tone deaf* - I've been hearing it a lot these days as people try to speak to our current struggles, and oftentimes it gets used in a derogatory manner. I would like to use "tone deaf," not in a negative manner, but to rehabilitate it, as it were, to invite the deeper, truer conversion of our hearts that is a necessity for true change and manifesting of God's kingdom.

To be tone deaf, at least in this current moment, means: "having or showing an obtuse insensitivity or lack of perception particularly in matters of public sentiment, opinion, or taste." This understanding finds its origins in music - to be tone deaf means to be "relatively insensitive to differences in musical pitch." If you are tone deaf, or have sung with someone who is, depending on your level of patience and tact, it can be a trying, most likely, frustrating or awkward experience. Simply put, he/she cannot hear the differences or changes in pitch. They get the melody wrong or cannot sing in key or the right notes. It's not that they are bad singers, but they can't sing in tune because they just can't hear it. Are we not all a little tone deaf? Not because I'm a bad or evil person, for we are who we are from our creation and birth and *formed* and *deformed* by the experiences and relationships we have. We all hope for good families and an ideal upbringing, but oftentimes through the brokenness in ourselves and others, it doesn't happen. But even in the most loving families and blessed upbringing, we need to recognize that we all in effect become "tone deaf." I cannot truly hear/understand the experiences and fears of the other, not because I don't want to, and not because I'm a bad person, but because I cannot live the life or experience the realities of the other.

However, the thing about tone deafness is that people can be taught to sing in tune - not perfectly, and not without time and effort and hard work. And it comes from all involved. I used the words patience and tact, but in reality, truthfully, it can get messy. People will get hurt and angry; people will get tired, frustrated and want to give up; and even with all the time and energy, there is no guarantee that the other will truly "get it." But maybe that's what we are called to be as God's children and isn't that what we all hope for.

I wonder if this isn't the real justice and respect for the dignity of others we hope for...what we are called to be through Christ. The righteous anger, the call to action, the necessity for change, justice and equality for those who cry out for it day after day - all this we need, and it is right and necessary, for it is truly *Opus Dei*, "the work of God."

The true difficult change must come from the conversion of individual hearts. Can we recognize our own tone deafness, the times which I have not truly seen and heard the "cry of the poor?" Not poor economically, but the "poor" who are marginalized, and thought of, or treated as, less than what God has made each and everyone to be. We must work to transform our hearts - to see all as God sees us. In this moment, God calls us to, or more correctly put, demands us to faithfulness to the saving work of Jesus. I say what I'm about to say, not in a dismissive or making-excuses kind of way, but hopefully for the truth that it is. **It requires time and effort; it requires the grace of God.** Please hear that in a new way now. The conversion and transformation of hearts is profoundly simple, but at the same time, profoundly difficult. Even in our own lives, we struggle with change and conversion - even St. Paul struggled with his reality: "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate." Even for people who are faithful; even for people who recognize their sinfulness, brokenness, and tone deafness; even for people who actively seek conversion, transformation, and holiness - it is profoundly difficult to change our hearts, to not sin, to love. But through the grace of God - we are given the time, the moment today and everyday... Will you put in the effort? The hard work needed to change your hearts? To change the world? To manifest the God's kingdom in the here and now?

Today is the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity - this beautiful mystery of the essence of who God is can help us to begin or continue the good work God has begun in us through His Son Jesus. There is too much to say, but I will end with this - Our God is Perfect Love! The essence of who God is, and who He made and calls us to be, is Love. Love can only exist in relationship. For the fullest measure of love to exist in relationship requires the recognition that the other is loved as I am - with profound respect, care, sacrifice. On this feast of the Holy Trinity, love one another as God loves you. Let's use the time we are given, and faithfully, tirelessly work, day after day, to make this love a reality for our nation and the whole world.

Do you recognize the where you may be "tone deaf" in your life and relationships? Am I willing to listen and to be changed?

When others are "tone deaf" or cannot understand, do you allow the frustrations and challenges either close or open your heart?

In what new ways will you to commit to bring a true personal conversion of heart? A true change to the hearts of others? A true change for our society? A true change for our nation?

* *Will you do it?...*

Nicene Creed:

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider: We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

Intercessions:

1. For our Church and parish community, that, guided by the Spirit of God, we may not harbor judgement and condemnation, but seek reconciliation and peace: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
2. For those who serve the Church as pastors and ministers, that they may proclaim the great love of God-the love revealed to us by Christ Jesus and now present among us in the Holy Spirit: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
3. For the nations and peoples of the world, that they may recognize the sacredness of God's creation and work together for its just use and protection: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
4. For the essential workers and first responders that they are strengthened and protected by Jesus the Risen One: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
5. For the sick, the suffering, abused and dying, that they may live in the hope of the risen Christ: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
6. For all our deceased relatives and friends may they rest forever in the eternal peace of Christ: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider: We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints

Closing Prayer:

Presider: May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen