

How many of you saw the movie, The Shack?

For those who didn't see it, without giving too much of it away,
I'd like to share a little bit about what I liked about that movie.

I'll start by simply saying that in the movie,
the main character has an encounter with God...

And that encounter is with all three person of the Blessed Trinity:
God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

And it is that encounter with the triune God that I most liked about the movie.

You see in the movie, God the father...the one everyone called papa...
was played by a slightly overweight black women who loved to cook.

God the son was played by a middle-eastern featured young man
who got a simple thrill running across the waters of a lake.

Finally, there was God the Spirit whose character was an Asian woman
Who loved to be out in the flower garden tending to the wrapped up
in the creative beauty of nature.

Now what I liked about the characters wasn't simply that they were cast
in somewhat different ways than you and I might perceive them;

No...what I liked about the characters was their interaction

with the main character and with one another,
and most specifically their deep and abiding love and respect for one another.

Throughout the movie, there was always a great respect for the gifts of each.

You could sense that they genuinely cared for each other...

They weren't in competition, but used the gifts particular to each one of them
For the good of all of them.

Mostly, they treated each other and the main character
always in a caring, gentle, and most of all...a loving way.

And I think that is what gives us pause to think this Feast day.

When I was in seminary, my homiletics professor said one day that the

Feast of the Holy Trinity is always about relationship!

And not necessarily how we relate to God...

but how we relate to each other in a godly manner.

That shouldn't come as too much of a surprise to us
because Jesus told us in Matthew 25,
after he separated the sheep from the goats,
and he told the sheep: come to heaven,
for I was hungry and you gave me food, thirst and you gave me drink...
And they asked "when"? When did we see you hungry and give you food?
Or thirsty and give you drink?
And Jesus told them: Whatever you did for one of the least ones we do for him.

Now be clear, my friends, that's not just about charity and outreach...
It's about how we treat our family and friends...
it's about how we treat our co-workers and neighbors...
It's about how we treat that person who cut us off in traffic
or the waitress who was a little slow with your order.

What the feast of the Holy Trinity offers us is an opportunity to reflect
on how well we do at one of the earliest lessons of life:
how well do we get along with others.

For most of us, I would imagine...
there are at least one or two relationships that need a little mending.
Because we all have more than a few sentences that start with...
"I wish I wouldn't have...
"I'm sorry I said...
"I wasn't myself when I...

Today's feast provides us not only with an opportunity
to say we're sorry, to make amends,
but also an opportunity to start anew.

Did you notice in the second reading today...
when St. Paul gives us advice on how to get along...
he begins with "Mend **your** ways...
The surest way to peace is to look at ourselves,
see what we need to change about us,
then we can begin to work on our relationships with others.

Jesus was right when he said...
How can you remove the speck in your brother's eye,
when you have a log in your own?

Remove the log from your own eye first...

then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

And so, on this Feast of the Holy Trinity...

What relationship do you have that needs mending?

Where has jealousy crept into a friendship?

Where has your desire to always be right caused harm to another?

My seminary professor was right...This Feast is all about relationships...

Not just the relationship of God the Creator to God the Spirit or God the Son...
But more importantly the relationships you have with those around you.