

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and the return to Ordinary Time, the liturgical season which leads to the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reflects upon Ordinary Time thus: "Christmas Time and Easter Time highlight the central mysteries of the Pascal Mystery, namely the incarnation, death on the Cross, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion. This is the living life of Christ.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe." The invitation to reflect upon the Sacred Scriptures as a time of spiritual growth is a great opportunity to appreciate more profoundly the mission of Jesus Christ. The observation of the Bishops that "this is a time of conversion" offers us a sense of hope as we try and conform ourselves more closely to Jesus the Redeemer, the Good Shepherd who always welcomes home the lost sheep. This spiritual exercise draws us into the reality that we are always in need of God's tender mercies. Our recognition of that truth disposes us to a stance of humility and poverty and thus most free to receive God's grace.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. During his *Angelus* remarks on May 31, 2015, Pope Francis spoke of the unique love of the Trinity which by its very nature is based upon a love that is at once mutual and communitarian. "Everything, in Christian life, revolves around the mystery of the Trinity and is fulfilled in this infinite mystery. Let us look, therefore, to keep high the 'tone' of our life, reminding ourselves to what *end, for what glory* we exist, work, struggle, suffer, and to which immense prize we are called to have."

The noted *Abbe* Louis Evely who was a prominent theologian in the twentieth century, in his book *That Man is You*, expresses Trinitarian love in a concise yet simple way: "When man was created, he was fashioned in the image of God, constituted male and female - in other words, capable of loving, but incapable of satisfying himself, sufficing unto himself or living wholly for himself. Destined to give himself, he can find fulfillment and happiness only in others. Made to prefer himself in them rather than in his own being, he can know and love himself better when someone frees him from his ego and shows him his true nature."

I wish to extend a special blessing to all of our fathers as we celebrate Father's Day. We are immensely grateful for your witness and loving sacrifice for your children and your families.

Fr. Tom