

## Holy Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026

Saint Augustine wrote: “When I speak of Christians in the plural, I understand one in the One Christ. You are therefore many, and you are one; we are many, and we are one.” Pope Leo XIV chose the last few words of that quotation as his motto. In Latin, “In Illo uno unum” “In Him, who is one, we are one.” And unity has certainly been one of the strong themes of his pontificate thus far. But of course, unity is not a new theme in the Church. The Church has been preaching unity from the beginning. When we think about St. John Paul II’s encyclical on Christian unity or when we go back to the Scriptures. Jesus prayed on the night of the Last Supper that his disciples would be one. St. Paul wrote about the many parts of the one body being united in one living organism, one entity. Or even at the secular level where we are two hundred and fifty a year as a nation, what's that motto that has been there all along? *E Pluribus Unum*. “Out of One, Many.” So, we have a good sense, I think, of what it means for there to be unity in full complicity, right? There is variety, but there is unity. This is Trinity Sunday, and I won’t give you a full treatise on the Trinity today but rather remind you that you were created in the image and likeness of the living God. You were created in the image of God, who is three in one. God is a communion of persons. So, if you are created in the image of God, you are created for community. Not isolation. It is for communion. Communion with God and then with neighbor.

So, it first begins with union interiorly. We need to be unified ‘whole’ in ourselves. The reality is that a lot of times we experience war inside of ourselves. We might even say, ‘Well, part of me wants this,

but the other part of me doesn't. Part of me thinks this, part of me thinks the opposite.' Or there might be some disunity between mind and heart and body even - the different parts of ourselves clash with our sense, our knowledge of who we are in Christ. There can be a war going on. Part of that is just the broken human nature that we have in that we are still inclined to sin. But we are called to the union, called for communion. The Lord wants to heal that brokenness, that division that even exists inside on us. But, of course, that's not the only communion for which we are created. We are created for communion with God, but even, you know, in our marriages, in our family life, the workplace, the neighborhood, everywhere, every level of life we ought to be a people of communion. God didn't make us for isolation and division but for communion, for love and community. Not just tolerating other people but loving them. We won't agree on everything either. I think I mentioned last Sunday or at some point in the week there's certainly room for dialogue, but we are united though, in truth. I suppose some people can debate anything, but there is truth and there is also need for opinion.

In the readings at Mass this past week we are hearing from the First Letter of Peter and in a couple of those passages, he urged his people to love each other intensely, not just love each other, but love each other intensely. It really stood out to me. It got my attention because we often love politely. We try to get along with other people, because all is well as long as there's not a war between us. But he says, "*Love one another intensely*". That is a reflection of Divine Love - the love of God for us. God loves each one of us intensely, infinitely, unconditionally, unwaveringly. We are made for

communion because we are made the image of God who is a community of persons.

Today's second reading from Second Corinthians, St. Paul writes to them: *“Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another. Agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of blood and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.”* Well? We are made for communion. It doesn't sound like he is just writing a community where everyone is on their own, minding their own business only. And, of course, there is a place for giving people privacy and I am not saying everyone should know everything about everyone. And yet, we are called to communion. We are made for communion with God and others.

Not only that, but you are also sent. You are sent to be agents of communion in the world. And that touches all the different spheres of our human life. Not just in religion and politics but in any dimension of human life we are sent to the agents of communion. And that includes engaging in peaceful dialogue with other people. It does include sharing our faith - speaking with other people, about matters of substance.

We like to talk about the weather. Isn't that the weirdest thing? That is the first thing that comes up. It's a good introduction, but let's go deeper than that. Let's have some sharing of faith and life. We can be agents of community in the world. Loving others. listening, respecting, seeking truth together, sharing the truth that we discovered that we know. Bringing others into relationship with the Lord. There are very practical things you can do, of course. I think about the parish community. Do we know the names of every person

gathered to worship today? Perhaps that is a place to start. Are you willing to introduce yourself to one person that you don't know?

We need to grow in this communion. Perhaps it is obvious point to make but we refer to the Eucharist as "Holy Communion" and in receiving that holy Sacrament we grow in communion with God. We are also reminded that we're created for communion with our neighbor, and that we're sent into the world, agents of communion. The grace in the sacraments allow us to be agents of communion. To grow in communion with God we naturally desire to grow in communion with our neighbor.

We ask God for the grace today especially in receiving Holy Communion to remember in whose image and likeness we are made. We are not made for the lone ranger of isolation but for communion with persons. And then we are transformed to be able to go out and make communion in the world around us.