

HOMILY FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

June 6 and 7, 2020

Fr. Trey Nelson

“May our lives—not just our words—say ‘peace be with you.’”

Bishop Shelton Fabre, originally a priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge and now the bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and the chairman of the U.S. Bishop’s ad hoc committee against racism, has invited us to offer the following prayer, especially during these difficult days:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
“Mary, friend and mother to all,
through your Son, God has found a way
to unite himself to every human being,
called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help **in calling on your Son**,
seeking forgiveness for the times when we have
failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help **in obtaining from your Son**
the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism
and to build a just society.

We ask for your help **in following your Son**,
so that prejudice and animosity
will no longer infect our minds or hearts
but will be replaced with a love that respects
the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church,
the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts:
pray for us.
Amen.”

(United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Used with Permission)

It could be said and, in fact, has been said, that there are 3 storms bearing down on us. The pandemic. The storm in the Gulf. And violence and all of the issues connected to it. Not to mention, most, if not all of us have storms going on in our personal lives, to one degree or another. Some have lost their jobs or had their hours cut back. Some have been sick or have a loved one who has been sick. Families have suffered the loss of loved ones in death. And then there are the day-to-day issues, such as, caring for your aging parents, keeping your children occupied and safe. Realizing that the start of school is less than 3 months away. And, in the midst of all this, trying to all stay healthy and, hopefully, happy. It is truly a stormy time right now. To me it sometimes seems that peace is hard to come by.

But here’s the thing about peace—in our personal lives and beyond. It doesn’t just happen. We have to want it, and we have to consciously choose to work for it. In scripture today, Saint Paul urges us: *“Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.”* We are called to be ambassadors of peace.

If you and I are experiencing tension and turbulence and worry in our personal lives, then we must stop in prayer and breathe and allow God to comfort us and **give us the peace that only God can give.**

If you and I are concerned about and concerned for peace in our communities and those upon whom injustice, especially the sin of racism, is inflicted, then we must be willing to bring understanding and compassion into our conversations with one another. Violence, whether physical or verbal is **the opposite of the kind of peace that only God can give.**

If you and I want to be brother and sister to one another—whether in our families or beyond—then we must be willing to consider each other’s feelings and **say, “peace be with you,” not just with our words but with our actions.**

Mother Teresa once wrote, *“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”*

The **“belonging”** to which she refers is the basic belief that God is Father and Creator of us all. Each and everyone of us has as our Life-Source—God. The same God who created the universe, the same God who established the sun by day and set the stars in the night sky—made us. It is God’s image and likeness in which all of us are created. And when we forget this, things can come undone—in any relationship.

Today is a special feast day in our church: **the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.** The mystery of the trinity—God as three persons but one God—is something that we will never fully understand in this life, but we are called to model our lives after that mystery.

... to live in community as best we can, as Christ himself did and would today.

...that the whole of our lives—our thoughts, words, conversations, and actions—would say **“peace be with you; I wish peace for you.”**

...and that the gesture and words known as the Sign of the Cross would not be for us just how we begin and end each prayer—but each day.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.