

Cycle A

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Lectionary # 164

Reading I: Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9

In this passage from the book of Exodus we see Moses seeking for the people what God has already intended for them. Moses wishes and beseeches God to receive the people as His own. In essence both Moses and God are seeking a **relationship** and any solid **relationship** will be founded on fidelity among those involved in the **relationship**. Moses has the Ten Commandments (The Decalogue) given to him and these laws will guide the people in their **relationship** with God and with one another. This particular relationship will be referred to as a covenant, a binding contract of not mere behavior but the binding of hearts and wills.

Reading 2: 2 Corinthians 13: 11 - 13

The words of Saint Paul may be seen as stern and foreboding but they must be heard in the context of a loving **relationship** that exists between Saint Paul and the people of Corinth. Saint Paul is about to leave his beloved community at Corinth and so he speaks these words in love. It would only be appropriate for a leader who is leaving a community to speak sound words of advice. Notice that there are four imperative verbs that stand out in this farewell message: *mend*, *encourage*, *agree* and *live*. Indeed these would truly be things each of us would strive for in any **relationship** that we wish to be solid and secure. Notice also that the concluding verse of today's excerpt from Corinthians is the liturgical greeting that is used at the celebration of Mass. In that greeting alone we see that we are called to be in **relationship** with the Holy Trinity.

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

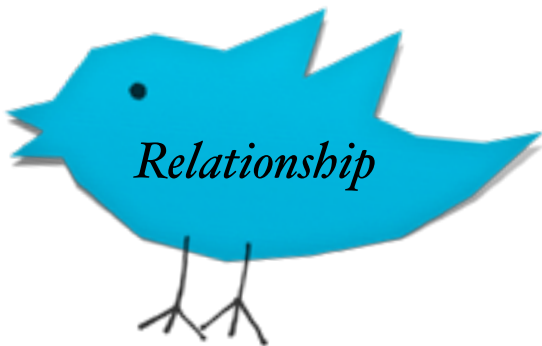
If there has ever been a passage that is more well known it is probably this passage from Saint John's Gospel (Jn 3:16). At just about every sporting event someone or another has a huge poster proclaiming **JN 3:16**. Here again we hear of God's love and God's wanting to be in union with the people He has created. **Relationship** is crucial to a healthy life for all of us. In the words of today's gospel we hear clearly that all are offered the gift of eternal life and a life that is interwoven with the most Holy Trinity in love. This love that exists among the three persons of the Trinity is intended to call us into such **relationship**.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's
story



Love You Forever

Written by Robert Munsch

Illustrated by Sheila McGraw

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ISBN-10: 0920668372

ISBN-13: 978-0920668375



character
education
activity

**The relationship we are called
to with God and God with us is
known as a COVENANT, a
union of hearts, minds and
wills.**

Love You Forever

This beautiful and timeless story details the cycle of life and love by chronicling the experiences of a young son and his mother throughout the boy's life. It includes and describes the exasperating behavior exhibited by him throughout his youth. In spite of her occasional aggravation caused by her son's behavior, the mother nevertheless visits his bedroom nightly to cradle him in her arms, and sing a lullaby promising always to love him. Eventually as the two grow older the tables are turned and it is the young man who sings an altered rendition of her lullaby in reciprocation of the love that she had shown him: vowing always to love her. The key to the story is that of a loving relationship.

Activity

Step One: Construct a large equilateral triangle with each side being at least 20 inches or more. It must be made of some very sturdy material. Show the students the triangle vertically and then lower it so that it can be seen in a horizontal position. In this manner all three points are on the same level which represents equality among the persons of the Trinity. With the triangle in the horizontal position you may allow the triangle to be lowered over the head and shoulders of one of the students thus illustrating how the Holy Trinity of God and the love that exists among them comes upon each person at baptism. You can go further by illustrating how the Trinity is experienced in all of the 7 Sacraments.

Step Two: Suspend the Triangle horizontally over the doorway of the classroom so that each day the students may be reminded that the love of the Triune God hovers above them and wishes very much to be invited into the students' lives daily. This is also a wonderful opportunity to bring new meaning to the Sign of the Cross. As students make the Sign of the Cross, you can instruct them to view themselves being clothed in the name of the Trinity and the love that is the Trinity.

The relationship between God and humanity has everything to do with grace, which is the self-giving love of God towards humanity.



case study

Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

What could you do today ?

Think about and then list all of the things that you find helpful and comforting in a good **relationship**. Once you have constructed the list, and it may in fact be an on-going list, make a commitment to yourself to be those things for other people that you are in relationship with. For example, if it is important to feel listened to when you are talking to someone, commit yourself to being a good listener when in conversation with others. Listening is a very large part of being in a good **relationship**. Even when we think about how God designed us, He gave us two ears and one mouth. In design alone we should have a clue that we are made to listen, share, and see with those around us!

Look Feel Know Act

In all of creation we can look around and see the **interrelationship** of all of nature. When we work cooperatively with nature and with one another, wonderful things may and do occur. Likewise we can see throughout history and even in our day lives what happens when we do not reverence our **relationship** with the earth and with one another. The result is difficulty and discord. **Relationships** take effort on the part of everyone and we must recognize that when another party is hurt or in a weakened situation it is required, by loving relationship, for the stronger one to come to the aid of the one who is weak at that moment. At one time or another each of us may be in that weakened position and require the stronger one to come to our aid. In **relationship** we must consistently ask ourselves *...how would I like to be treated?* and then act in such a manner towards the other.

The parental love that is illustrated in the book *Love You Forever*, is a great illustration of God's love for us even in the midst of our failures and sins. The story also illustrates that in **relationship** we are called to be the giver and recipients of loving care and there will indeed be moments when we are the absolute recipients and other occasions where we will be called upon to be the conduit and giver of God's love and care.



**closing
tool**

Pray that you you will make a practice of marking yourself with the Sign of the CRoss as soon as you awaken in the morning and at the day's end as you get into bed. In doing so you bookend your day with clothing yourself in waking hours and sleeping hours with the name and the love of the Most Holy Trinity. Amen



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