

Trinity News

Epiphany II The Ever-Present Need of Relationships

The symmetry of the human body may delight us. It is perfect for its function in the world. It was revered by the Greeks and covered up by the Jews. The word "gymnasium" comes from the Greek "gymnos" which means "naked". It tells us something about Greek athletics. The Apostle Paul took this image of the human body gazed at by the Greek world to craft a wonderful description of the function of the Church. If any part of the body malfunctions then other parts of the body are affected. Just ask those who have lost a limb or part of a limb. Balance and effectiveness are changed, though courage prevails.

Paul notes the parts of the body and says that our functions within the Body of Christ, the Church are both different and necessary, like our body parts. A priest without hands would find the celebration of the Eucharist impossible without help. Paul relates body 'members' to functions in ministry. If the Church is the Body of Christ, then that is a tough call. The body of Christ that was placed in a rock tomb in Jerusalem bore the marks of wounds and sufferings. That body would be transformed and his human identity preserved forever in the Resurrection on Easter Day. To facilitate our backwards and forwards movement in our pilgrimage between The Cross of suffering and Transformation of Resurrection with its attendant joy, we need gifts bestowed by the Spirit of Jesus to serve practical needs. We are members of the Body of Christ, and though our functions are different, so are our gifts. May we use them to build up relationships in this church and in the wider Church.

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Jesus came to a celebration of relationships one day at Cana of Galilee and blessed the occasion with his presence, his words, and his deeds. Providence bursts through clear and still water in large earthenware jars and produces the newest wine of all at the marriage in Cana. This was the rarest vintage of all, and the guests liked it! It is one of the rare occasions when the gospel writers allow us to see Jesus happy and relaxed. It is, after all, a marriage ceremony, and the Jews love a marriage feast. The formalities were simple and soon over, but the festivities were grand. There was probably no necessary documentation. The often-married film star Mickey Rooney said that he was the only man in the world with a marriage certificate marked, "To Whom It May Concern".

The haughty Lady Astor said: "I married beneath myself: all women do." The bride and the groom at Cana had no such illusions. Theirs was truly a marriage blessed in heaven. The Master of all life, the *eikon* of God's love in the world, was present to give the blessing. The most beautiful blessing in the Hebrew Bible is at Numbers 6:24-26:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance on you,
And give you peace.

Jesus of Nazareth didn't need to give a formal blessing at the marriage because he was a blessing through his presence and supportive love. He blessed what they needed most, wine to gladden the heart. How beautiful to see such happiness! Love brings its own blessing. Later, in Jerusalem, Christ would bless bread and wine by offering thanks to God for them. He would offer a blessing to humanity through that gift. But this day in Galilee he blessed people by his dynamic contact with God's providence and love. They were dazzled; love and recognition flowed. The couple were blessed and the Messiah came away after beginning the "signs of his glory". As Magnus Magnusson says:

"Is wedlock really synonymous with deadlock? Who speaks for the millions who have not only survived but enjoyed decades of marriage? They're out there somewhere". I hope that the two betrothed ones in Cana of Galilee had a great life to together. They had a fantastic start!

- Bishop Arthur Jones

This week:

Tuesday, Jan. 19.

- Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 21.

- Eucharist, 10am, Chapel
- Bible Study, 7pm, Rectory

Sunday, Jan. 24.

- Eucharist, 7:30 & 9:30
- Sunday School, 9:15

Reminder:

For the forthcoming Jan 31st AGM, Committee Chairs are requested to submit their brief reports not later than **Friday, Jan. 22**. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Next week's readings:

Nehemiah 8:2-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Luke 4:14-21