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Homily Given May 18, 2008
Trinity Sunday - Liturgical Year A

Did you ever spend time – even maybe live – in a remote, solitary place? Some people really seek out a solitary, isolated place to live. Maybe they need healing and go apart for a while. But there are some who really cherish living apart – all alone.

Whatever draws people to live apart and alone, they soon discover that there's no real "escape" from the world. In the early centuries of our Church, the so-called "Desert Fathers" spoke about this. They tried to leave the world but couldn't. In their hearts, in their deepest inner selves burned an awareness of the world they simply could not escape.

It's a mystery. You and I, in God's plan, are created for relationships. Our origin is in the relationships of our parents. Our life is in family. We are made for relationships. It's part of God's plan for us even when the relationships going wrong.

Trinity Sunday is not about some abstract doctrine. It's about who God is. God is not solitary, alone. God's life – that's right – God's life is a relationship. Three relationships in one God. God is at the heart of it all – relationship.

Jesus came to show us God. What did he do? He became part of a family. He lived in a community, tight-knit, traditional, full of relationships. He called disciples and made them friends. Jesus, the human face of God, called you and me, as he called his first followers, to relationship.

You may like your religion simple and solitary. If so, you haven't paid enough heed to Jesus. In Jesus' world, God is relationships. In Jesus' church, one comes to know God by a rich, complex series of relationships.

"It's my life. I'll live it as I please." "It's my money. I'll spend it when and where I want." Those might be American sayings, but they are not Christian. You and I are, by our nature, mixed up with one another. We are, by God's design, related to one another.

My favorite line in this Trinity-like way of thinking is from one of the documents of our Second Vatican Council. Listen to the words of the Council Fathers. They are talking about God's plan of creation and redemption. They say, "God, however, willed to make us holy and save us, not as individuals without any bond or link between us, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge God and serve him in holiness".

That's right. You got it. God saves us through our relationships. Some are great, others not so great. For some, we bless God. For others, we ask for healing. But in our relationships, God is forming us, working on us, making us holy.

Embrace it. Trinity Sunday says God is relationships. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are created in God's image. We are made for our relationships.

So live them. In doing so, you accept nothing less than living a life in God.