



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

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WHY TRINITY SUNDAY

SHOULD MEAN EVERYTHING TO YOUR FAMILY

*"Families," St. John Paul II famously exhorted us,
"become what you are."*

Soren & Ever Johnson

AS NEWLYWEDS 20 YEARS AGO, WE SPENT ZERO TIME THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE HOLY TRINITY—WHOM THE CHURCH CELEBRATES ON TODAY'S SOLEMNITY -- MEANT FOR OUR MARRIAGE OR DREAMS OF STARTING A FAMILY. WHATEVER THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE DYNAMICS OF THE INNER LIFE OF GOD, WE LEFT THAT TO THE THEOLOGIANS. FOR US, EACH DAY BECAME A BLUR OF DIAPERS, DISHES, COMMUTES, AND BILLS.



FIVE KIDS LATER, EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES SEEMS SHOT THROUGH - -ILLUMINED, BLESSED, ENNOBLED -- BY THE TRINITY. AS A FAMILY, WE'VE CONSECRATED OURSELVES TO THE HOLY TRINITY. WE STRIVE TO DO LIFE IN A "TRINITARIAN KEY." OVER DINNER, WE TRY TO CONNECT OUR KIDS' QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SOCIETY'S TOXIC "CULTURE OF THE BIG ME" WITH INSIGHTS FOUND IN GOD'S OWN LIFE AND IDENTITY.

LIKE ANY FAMILY, WE FACEPLANT ALL THE TIME. BUT WE KEEP GETTING UP AND INVITING THE TRINITY TO SUSTAIN US. TOGETHER WE ASK THE TRINITY FOR HEALING AND GRACE, AND WE'VE EVEN TAKEN TO CALLING OUR HOME -- OUR "DOMESTIC CHURCH" -- A "TRINITY HOUSE."

SO HOW DID THIS TURNAROUND HAPPEN?

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, IT SEEMED THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S LIFE WAS DISTANT FROM OUR FAMILY. SAINTHOOD MIGHT BE WITHIN REACH FOR MARTYRS, SOLITARY MEDIEVAL MYSTICS, AND CLERGY, BUT NOT FOR OUR YOUNG, CHAOTIC FAMILY.

OVER TIME, WE CAME TO SEE HOW WRONG WE WERE. WE REALIZED THAT OUR MESSY LITTLE HOUSEHOLD ALREADY HAD A BIG HEAD-START -- BECAUSE OUR FAMILY AND THE HOLY TRINITY SHARE A STUNNING SIMILARITY: WE ARE BOTH A "COMMUNION OF PERSONS."

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FEASTS FOR JUNE

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE ARE:

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| 1 JUSTIN, MEMORIAL | 22 PAULINUS OF NOLA; JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE, OPT. MEM. |
| 2 MARCELLINUS & PETER; EMBER FRIDAY, OPT. MEM. | 24 NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SOLEMNITY |
| 3 CHARLES LWANGA & COMPANIONS, MEMORIAL | 25 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 4 TRINITY SUNDAY, SOLEMNITY | 26 JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ, OPT. MEM. |
| 5 BONIFACE, MEMORIAL | 27 CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, OPT. MEM. |
| 6 NORBERT, OPT. MEM. | 28 IRENAEUS, MEMORIAL |
| 9 EPHREM, OPT. MEM. | 29 SAINTS PETER & PAUL, SOLEMNITY |
| 11 CORPUS CHRISTI, SOLEMNITY | 30 FIRST MARTYRS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CHURCH, OPT. MEM. |
| 13 ANTHONY OF PADUA, MEMORIAL | |
| 16 SACRED HEART OF JESUS, SOLEMNITY | |
| 17 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, MEMORIAL | |
| 18 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | |
| 19 ROMUALD, OPT. MEM. | |
| 21 ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, MEMORIAL | |

THE FEAST OF ST. BARNABAS (JUNE 11) IS SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

Crying Out to God Almighty

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

KNOWING THE TOUCH OF GOD

*SAUL ALSO WENT TO HIS HOME AT GIBEAH, AND WITH HIM WENT MEN OF VALOR WHOSE
HEARTS GOD HAD TOUCHED. (1 SAMUEL 10:26)*

By Bert Cargill

WE'RE LEARNING MORE THAN EVER THAT TOUCH, ONE OF THE FIVE SENSES GOD GAVE US, IS VERY IMPORTANT. TOUCH CAN COMMUNICATE INFECTION OR IT CAN COMMUNICATE AFFECTION!

AS THE WEEKS PASS, IT HAS BEEN GOOD TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MANY OF OUR FRIENDS IN DIFFERENT WAYS - PHONING, TEXTING, EMAILS AND WHATSAPPS, MAYBE ZOOMS AND SKYPES AND OTHER DIGITAL CONNECTIONS. COULD YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE WITHOUT ANY OF THESE? SOME OF YOU MIGHT REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAD TO GO OUT AND FIND A RED TELEPHONE BOX TO CALL SOMEONE! PUT MONEY IN THE SLOT, PRESS BUTTON A OR B AND GET A THREE MINUTE CALL!

IT'S INTERESTING HOW WE SPEAK ABOUT "KEEPING IN TOUCH" WHEN ACTUAL REAL "TOUCH" IS DISCOURAGED, EVEN OUTLAWED – AND FOR A GOOD REASON! DON'T EVEN TOUCH YOUR OWN FACE! AND NO HANDSHAKES, 'HIGH-FIVES' OR HUGS FROM THE LITTLE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE. CONTINUE TO SANITISE SURFACES AND WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN, ESPECIALLY IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE TOUCHED SOMETHING SUSPECT.

WE'RE LEARNING MORE THAN EVER THAT TOUCH, ONE OF THE FIVE SENSES GOD GAVE US, IS VERY IMPORTANT. TOUCH CAN COMMUNICATE INFECTION OR IT CAN COMMUNICATE AFFECTION! IT IS PROBABLY THE MOST SENSITIVE OF ALL OUR SENSES, STILL ACTIVE WHEN THE OTHERS FADE AS THE YEARS MOUNT UP, OR MAYBE DISAPPEAR WHEN LIFE EBBS OUT. THAT'S WHY WE WOULD WANT TO HOLD A LOVED ONE'S HAND ESPECIALLY AT THE END.

THERE'S ANOTHER MEANING TO "TOUCH" – SOMETHING MORE THAN PHYSICAL, RATHER EMOTIONAL OR SPIRITUAL. WE SPEAK ABOUT OUR HEARTS BEING TOUCHED BY SOMEONE'S KINDNESS, OR OUR LIVES BEING TOUCHED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S INTERVENTION, OR OUR SOULS BEING TOUCHED BY GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE.

AND IT'S WONDERFUL TO READ IN THE BIBLE ABOUT THE LORD JESUS BEING "TOUCHED" BY OUR TROUBLES. IN ONE OF THESE EMPHATIC DOUBLE NEGATIVES, WE READ IN HEBREWS 4.15 THAT IN HEAVEN AS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST, **HE IS NOT ONE WHO CANNOT BE TOUCHED BY THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES** - OUR TRIALS, DISAPPOINTMENTS, SORROWS AND PAINS. HE KNOWS ABOUT THEM ALL, FOR HE WAS ONCE HERE AND EXPERIENCED THEM HIMSELF, SO HE KNOWS HOW WE FEEL EVEN TODAY. YOU CAN COME TO HIM ANYTIME AT HIS "THRONE OF GRACE" AND FIND SYMPATHY AND GRACE TO COMFORT YOU, TO GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO GO ON.

WHEN HE WAS HERE, HIS HANDS ACTUALLY TOUCHED MANY PEOPLE WHO NEEDED HIS HELP, EVEN THOSE WITH LEPROSY WHO WERE "UNTOUCHABLE" BECAUSE OF THE REAL RISK OF INFECTION, SIMILAR TO OUR CORONAVIRUS SITUATION. BUT HE WOULD NOT CONTRACT THEIR DISEASE, RATHER HE REMOVED IT. YOU WILL REMEMBER HE ALSO TOUCHED THE EYES OF THE BLIND, THE EARS OF THE DEAF, THE TONGUE OF THE DUMB, AND HE HEALED THEM ALL. HE ALSO TOUCHED THE HAND OF A FEVERED WOMAN (MATT 8.15), THE FEARFUL DISCIPLES AFTER AN AMAZING VISION (MATT 17.7), THE YOUNG CHILDREN WHO WERE BROUGHT TO HIM BY THEIR MOTHERS (MARK 10.13, 16), EVEN THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF AN ONLY SON OF A WIDOWED MOTHER (LUKE 7.14). SUCH WAS THE COMPASSION OF THE "MAN OF SORROWS," AND SUCH WAS HIS POWER TO HELP AND BLESS ALL WHO TRUSTED HIM THEN. HE IS THE SAME FOR ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM NOW.

HENRY TWELLS (1823-1900) WROTE ABOUT THIS IN A HYMN BASED ON MARK 1.32:

AT EVEN, ERE THE SUN WAS SET,
THE SICK, O LORD, AROUND THEE LAY;
OH IN WHAT DIVERS PAINS THEY MET!
OH WITH WHAT JOY THEY WENT AWAY!
O SAVIOUR CHRIST, OUR WOES DISPEL:
FOR SOME ARE SICK AND SOME ARE SAD,

AND SOME HAVE NEVER LOVED THEE WELL,
AND SOME HAVE LOST THE LOVE THEY HAD.
THY TOUCH HAS STILL ITS ANCIENT POWER,
NO WORD FROM THEE CAN FRUITLESS FALL:
HEAR IN THIS SOLEMN EVENING HOUR,
AND IN THY MERCY HEAL US ALL.

ONE DAY THE PROPHET ELIJAH WAS SO DEJECTED AND WEARY THAT HE FELL ASLEEP UNDER A JUNIPER TREE. A TENDER HAND TOUCHED HIM, AWOKE HIM, FED HIM AND STRENGTHENED HIM TO TRAVEL ON FOR ANOTHER FORTY DAYS (1 KINGS 19.4-8). MAY YOU FEEL THE TOUCH OF GOD'S GRACIOUS HAND TO STRENGTHEN YOU TODAY WHEREVER YOU ARE, HOWEVER YOU FEEL.

Bert retired after thirty years' chemistry teaching and research and lives with his wife Isobel on the east coast of Scotland. He has had a lifelong commitment to Christian service, based in the assembly in St Monans. He has written several books and magazine articles, some of which deal with the connection between Science and Creation.

EDITORS' NOTE: AFTER READING THIS ARTICLE, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK DEEP INTO YOUR HEARTS AND SEE HOW GOD HAS TOUCHED YOU. WE PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ENLIGHTEN EVERYONE SO WE CAN SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE (S) AND FULFILL GOD'S MISSION FOR US TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORY OF GOD! □

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHY TRINITY SUNDAY

"THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY," THE *CATECHISM* DECLARES, "IS A COMMUNION OF PERSONS, A SIGN AND IMAGE OF THE COMMUNION OF THE FATHER AND THE SON IN THE HOLY SPIRIT." IN OUR FAMILY LIFE, THE "PROCREATION AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN" CAN "REFLECT THE FATHER'S WORK OF CREATION." OUR FAMILY IS "CALLED TO PARTAKE OF THE PRAYER AND SACRIFICE OF CHRIST" AS WELL AS THE "EVANGELIZING AND MISSIONARY TASK." (2205) RATHER THAN BEING DISTANT, THESE DYNAMICS OF THE TRINITY ALREADY BELONG TO OUR FAMILY.

WE'RE NOT TRYING TO SELL YOU ON SOME POSITIVE-THINKING MANTRA, THAT BY REPEATING "MY FAMILY IS A LITTLE ICON OF THE TRINITY," YOU CAN TRICK YOUR MIND INTO THINKING THAT YOUR FAMILY IS LIKE GOD. NO. **WHAT WE'RE SAYING IS THAT THE CHURCH TEACHES THAT YOUR FAMILY IS ALREADY AN ICON OF THE TRINITY.**

"FAMILIES," ST. JOHN PAUL II FAMOUSLY EXHORTED US, "BECOME WHAT YOU ARE!" INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIND YOUR FAMILY'S IDENTITY IN BUSYNESS, COMFORT, SCREENS,

OR GETTING INTO THE BEST SCHOOLS, *BECOME WHAT YOU ARE*. INSTEAD OF COMPARING YOUR FAMILY TO OTHERS, *BECOME WHAT YOU ARE*.

BECOME MORE LIKE GOD'S COMMUNION OF PERSONS: LOVING, SELF-GIVING, OTHER-CENTERED, AVAILABLE, RECEPTIVE, INTERDEPENDENT, BONDED, AND CREATIVE. LIKE THE TRINITY, DON'T BE CONTENT WITH AN INWARD FOCUS, BUT REACH OUT TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR PARISH (A "FAMILY OF FAMILIES"), AND THE WORLD.

IN DAILY, PRACTICAL WAYS, WE CAN ALIGN THESE TRINITARIAN ATTRIBUTES WITH OUR FAMILY'S COMMUNION OF PERSONS -- WHEN WE HONOR THE SABBATH, LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO OUR SPOUSE, RESPOND LOVINGLY TO OUR CHILDREN'S NEEDS, LINGER OVER A DELICIOUS DINNER, LEAD THE FAMILY IN THE EVENING ROSARY, DO THE CHORES, HOST NEIGHBORS, OR ROLL UP THE SLEEVES FOR A FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT. IN THESE AND MANY OTHER WAYS, OUR FAMILIES CAN PARTAKE IN THE JOY OF GOD'S OWN LIFE.

TWENTY YEARS INTO OUR MARRIAGE, WE NO LONGER THINK OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY TRINITY AS A BLIP ON THE LITURGICAL MAP. WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE TO BECOME WHAT WE ARE, TO CONFORM TO THE IMAGE WE BEAR, AND YES, EVEN TO DO TONIGHT'S DISHES, TO THE GLORY OF GOD: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

TO UNITE YOUR FAMILY EVEN MORE WITH THE HOLY TRINITY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

MOST HOLY TRINITY, THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF OUR FAMILY. HEAVENLY FATHER, YOU CREATED US IN YOUR IMAGE AND WELCOME US AS YOUR BELOVED CHILDREN. JESUS, YOU SERVE US WITH YOUR LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION IN THE ONGOING SACRAMENTS AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH. HOLY SPIRIT, YOU LISTEN TO OUR PRAYERS AND INTERCEDE FOR US. LORD, STRENGTHEN US AS WE SEEK TO WELCOME, LISTEN TO, AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH GREATER LOVE EACH DAY. HEAL ANY WOUNDS THAT PREVENT US FROM SHARING YOUR LIFE-GIVING LOVE. SHOW OUR FAMILY HOW TO MORE FAITHFULLY REFLECT YOUR IMAGE IN OUR HOME, RELATIONSHIPS, AND WORK. WE INVITE YOU TO DWELL WITH US IN OUR HOME -- YOUR TRINITY HOUSE -- AS WE SEEK TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS YOU FIRST LOVED US. GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN. □

Soren and Ever Johnson are Co-Founders and Co-Directors of *Trinity House Community* and *Trinity House Café + Market*.

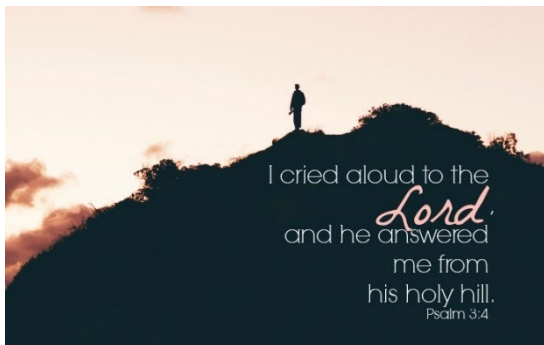
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

CRYING OUT TO GOD ALMIGHTY

BY VICTOR ARANETA

WE ARE LIKE THERMOSTATS SET AT A SPECIFIC TEMPERATURE AND THE WIND ALWAYS AT OUR BACK. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ENJOY A LEVEL PATH, SUSTAINED CONTENTMENT AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS.

ADVERSITY DISRUPTS OUR CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. WE RISE AND FALL ON THE DOCTOR'S REPORTS,



SINK AND SOAR ON THE RESPONSE TO OUR RESUMES. AFFLICTIONS BARGE INTO OUR WELL-APPOINTED WORLD, OVERTURNING OUR CAREFULLY CRAFTED PLANS. BUT THE INTRUSION OF DIFFICULTY CULTIVATES A RIPE CLIMATE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH. WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN, WE CRY OUT TO GOD. THE PSALMS IN PARTICULAR ARE REDUNDANT WITH PLEAS AND PETITIONS FOR GOD'S HELP. CRYING OUT TO GOD ADMITS OUR HELPLESSNESS AND WEAKNESS, AND CONFESSES OUR DEPENDENCE ON HIM ALONE. AS NOTHING ELSE DOES, ADVERSITY CAUSES US TO REALIZE OUR NEED FOR GOD. IN SO DOING, WE LEARN TO LISTEN. SPIRITUAL EARS THAT WERE DULL IN CONTENTMENT AND EASE BECOME SUDDENLY SENSITIZED TO GOD'S WORD IN TIME OF CRISIS. OUR LORD, NEVER FAILING TO LISTEN, LEANS ON HIS THRONE AND OPENS HIS EARS TO THE WAILING AND GROPING CREATION ASKING FOR A STAND-ALONE AUDIENCE.

PRAYER: MY LORD, AS I TURN MYSELF TO YOU WITH MERCY, OPEN YOUR HEART TO MY PLEA OF RECOMPENSE. MY LIFE IS IN AGONY AND WITH THE NUMEROUS TIMES I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THIS MISERY, SUCH ARE THE NUMBER OF TIMES I NEVER LEARN TO ADMIT MY FAULT. I ASK YOU, MY GOD, TO OPEN MY HEART AND UNDERSTAND THIS TRIAL NOT FROM SOMEONE'S POINT OF VIEW BUT FROM MY OWN UNDERSTANDING AND HUMBLE ACCEPTANCE IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN. ☐

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 2, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 9:30 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 3, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 1:00 PM

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 9:45 AM
CENACLE AT 10:15 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 4, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 10:30 AM
MASS & BENEDICTION AT 11:30 AM

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

JUNE 17, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
MASS AT 9:00 AM