

Sunday Message from Fr William for Sixth Sunday of Easter 2024

The 'Other World' continued from 28.04.24

Yes, the Father, the First Person of the Trinity, is all giving, giving, giving. (See Sunday Message 16 July 2023). Psalm 103 (104) is a song that sings of his fatherly providence:

You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they give drink to all the beasts of the field.

You make grass grow for the cattle, and the plants to serve man's needs.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

Psalm 144 (145) as well:

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand, you grant the desires of all who live.

Even before this he gives life and breath to all living things. (Acts 17:25)

In fact the whole of the created world, the whole of the created universe, is one vast and sustained act of giving. And this is but an expression of who he is in himself. Giving is at the very heart of his divine nature. Remember, the Father's primary act of giving is not in this world. It's in the 'other world'. (see Sunday Message 27 August 2023). His primary act of giving is in giving being/existence to the Son – infinite being/existence. And in this act of giving being/existence to the Son, the Father also gives him Freedom, infinite Freedom. And from this extreme point of infinite Freedom the Son, in his turn, gives himself in an infinite act of self-giving to the Father. It is, without beginning and without end, an ongoing and eternal act of infinite self-giving Love. (27 August 2023). This is the life of the Trinity. This is the life of the 'other world'. This is the central thrust of these reflections on the 'other world', and I'll keep returning to it.

Come back with me now, once again, to the brilliant Genesis 1 account of Man's creation 'in the image of God', and take a closer look, and see how this is the most profound work not of the Father alone but of the Trinity. The Genesis author tells the creation story as a succession of six days. One day after another God creates some new wonder that springs from his creative love. But on the sixth day He seems to pause and enter into Himself, to take counsel with Himself and decide to create something utterly unique that will be a reflection of His own divine nature.

Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves. (Genesis 1:26)

And as he reflects on His own divine nature, what does He see there? Infinite Freedom and infinite Love, the twin dynamics of the eternal life of the Trinity, and the mutual self-giving that lies at the heart of these twin dynamics. (see eg 27 August 2023). It is only then that He creates maleness and femaleness, as a finite expression of His own nature, as a finite expression of his own infinite self-giving:

'God created man in the image of himself,

in the image of God he created him,

male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:27)

We need to learn not only how to 'read' the self-giving meaning of our bodies, but also how to live it, and to live it authentically.

to be continued...

William

5th May 2024