

Reflection Questions

- What does a *we* program of recovery look like for you?
- How do you stay committed to your recovery and a life of faith even when the behavior of others or the circumstances around you do not improve?
- How do you understand redemptive suffering through the lens of your recovery?

A Note About Sponsorship

Sponsorship is a vital part our recovery journey and is built on the model of Christian discipleship.

- A sponsor is someone who exhibits the qualities we would like to improve in ourselves.
- He/she guides us through working the Twelve Steps and is a constant source of support.
- A sponsor will also point us to reliance on the Holy Trinity as our only true source of strength.

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

1st Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Gospel: Luke 16:12-15

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Last week we reflected upon the apostles' experience with the strong driving wind of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, remembering our own spiritual awakening and the lasting impression it can have. We may be grateful for moments when we are seized by the will of God and given clear direction to the path we ought to take as it relates to our own quest for help. Inevitably, the storm will calm but our identity is forever changed.

This week we turn our rejoice toward the Holy Trinity, recognizing the beautiful relationship we maintain with God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is a central aspect of our faith as Christians and something we acknowledge every time we make the sign of the cross. To be loved by God is to be a part of the Three-in-One (Triune) relationship that is the Holy Trinity.

Saint Paul summarizes this notion in the fifth chapter of his letter to the Romans, this week's second reading:

Brothers and sisters:

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in hope of the glory of God.
Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions,
knowing that affliction produces endurance,
and endurance, proven character,
and proven character, hope,
and hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been
poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

In our recovery from from the family spiritual disease of addiction, we are offered a chance to transform from a spirit of slavery to a spirit of freedom through our adoption in the Holy Trinity. In this relationship, we can shed whatever shame exists and re-frame our attitude alongside our brothers and sisters seeking spiritual progress.

It is often said that recovery is a *we* program, not an *I* program. We need each other. As baptized Christians, this also implies that our relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is an essential part of the experience. It cements our identity as children of God, co-heirs to His kingdom with Christ, and channels of the Holy Spirit. By replacing *I* with *we*, we replace illness with wellness.

Paul concludes the previous passage by noting that we are to suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with him. Our experience in recovery tells us that as we get better, the circumstances around us may still be troubling. Alone, we may not be able to withstand this suffering—certainly not in a redemptive way. We find courage through our union with the Holy Trinity and the loving support of others.

We are not always moved by a rushing breeze of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the voice of God can only be heard when we empty our minds and quiet our hearts. Affirmation that we are on the right path comes when we experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).