

**Homily for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**  
**St. Francis of Assisi Church – Belchertown, Massachusetts**  
**June 16, 2019**

Scripture Readings: Proverbs 8:22-31 ✕ Psalm 8 4-9 ✕ Romans 5:1-5 ✕ John 16:12-15



One of my all-time favorite movies is 1963's "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." The basic premise of the film is that several people, who have witnessed an accident, find out from the driver just before he dies that there is a large sum of money buried in a park several miles away. Hilarity ensues as the people, all driving separate cars and trucks race across California to find the buried cash.

In one scene, a couple, played by Sid Cesar and Edie Adams, decide to hire an airplane so that they can get to the treasure before anyone else.

The airport has a dirt runway and the airplane, piloted by an elderly gentleman, is a World War I era biplane built in 1916 and is constructed of wood, wire and cloth and is barely holding together. The couple nervously gets into the seat in front of the pilot.

As the pilot revs the engine of the rickety biplane, his wife pulls the chock block away from the wheel. She then steps back, and to the discomfort of the young couple in the biplane, she solemnly makes the Sign of the Cross.<sup>1</sup>

It's a humorous scene but everyone knows why the woman is making the Sign of the Cross and it clearly gets the nervous attention of the couple that the scene wanted to convey.

The Sign of the Cross does get our attention. It helps us to get focused and to fix our attention on what is most important in our lives. It's a call to prayer and it reminds us that what we are about to do is a very special part of our day.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that *"the Christian begins their day, and their activities with the Sign of the Cross: 'in*

*the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen' The baptized person dedicates the day to the glory of God and calls on the Savior's grace, which lets him/her act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The Sign of the Cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties."*<sup>2</sup>

What if we began all of our activities with the Sign of the Cross? What if we asked for God's grace, strength, and blessing at the beginning of each day? How would our lives be different if we offered everything to the Father, through the Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit?

The Sign of the Cross is something that's easy to skip over, to do half-heartedly or absent-mindedly. And yet, the Sign of the Cross is not just the beginning of prayer; it is itself a prayer. It's something that we should do slowly and prayerfully. It should focus us on the Triune God, the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity with whom we are speaking. It should engage all our minds, all our hearts, and all our strength.

In our Gospel passage today, Jesus says to His disciples, "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now." His disciples cannot understand it now. Indeed, the Trinity is a mystery to us even today. It's not something that we can really wrap our minds around but it is a reality of our faith and it is something that we all understand to some degree.

However, the Trinity is not some kind of problem or puzzle that we need to figure out or solve; it is a mystery with and through which we must live. Doing everything in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit will help us to live this mystery in our daily lives and activities and into eternity. ✕

<sup>1</sup> "It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," Casey Productions, 1963.

<sup>2</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, № 2157.