

#### Talk 4- Living in Communion with the Trinity through the Church as Mary did

- Jesus is the Unifier, Mary supports us, the Church is the instrument through which Jesus' ministry continues
  - o The Church brings God to men and men to God
- Mediator-bridge not an obstacle
  - o We think of the middle man as an obstacle, we want to eliminate the middle man
  - o God's mediation is not an hindrance, it is the way, it is a sign of progress
  - o God works this way, it is his plan
  - o Persons, places, things and events are means that communicate grace to us
  - o The way that God mediates progressively builds in the Old Testament
  - o He mediates himself fully in the Sacramental life of the Church
  - o Jesus is the mediator of grace and love
  - o The Church continues the mediation of Christ to the world
  - o Invitation to mediation invites us to humility
- 4 Parts of a covenant-God's initiative, promises, demands and sign
  - o Promises throughout the Scriptures
    - I am with you always until the end of the age.
    - I will give you the keys to the kingdom of Heaven and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against.
    - Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.
    - When you ask for anything in my name, I will give it to you.
  - o Demands revealed in the Scriptures and laid out by the Church
    - Live in communion with the Church through active participation
    - Follow the commandments
    - Live out of charity
    - Be obedient to the will of God
  - o Sign of the Covenant
    - Reception of the Eucharist
    - Shows one is living in Communion with God through the Catholic Church
- We need to live out the covenant now
- How do we relate to other churches or denominations? (Lumen Gentium 8)
  - o The Church founded by Jesus Christ subsists in the Catholic Church
  - o There are degrees of unity with other Protestant brothers and sisters
  - o There are elements of sanctification outside the Church but belong to it
  - o They are there because they received them and are forces impelling toward Catholic unity
  - o They are a participation in the life of the Catholic Church
  - o The Catholic Church is present in them by virtue of the presence of the elements of sanctification
  - o They are outside the visible structure but able to be partially part of the invisible Church
  - o Pastors concern to draw into full communion
- Movements of Christ
  - o Vertical and horizontal
    - Vertical-drawn up to God
    - Horizontal-drawn to serve fellow humans
  - o Interior and exterior
    - Interior is charity, faith, hope and prayer
    - Exterior is anything that is visible including Sacraments, professing the faith, united to the hierarchy

- Christ's desire is that we are all one as the Father and he are one
- The hierarchy
  - Pope-successor of St. Peter
  - Cardinals-120 under 80 years old, that elect the Pope
  - Bishops- may be cardinals, lead a diocese or part of the Church
  - Monsignors, Priests- lead a parish or group of laity
  - Deacons- assist priests and bishops in their role of shepherding
  - Pope is the servant of the servants of God
  - Ministerial priesthood is at the service of the Royal Priesthood
- Role of the laity
  - Priest needs to know what the faithful are going through
  - Priest needs to listen, discern and access parishioners gifts in order to foster, promote, and encourage laity to participate in the life of the Church
  - Participate in the life of the Church actively and use gifts to build up the kingdom of God
- Where do we go from here?
  - Bearing witness to Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and Life: Go. Make. Teach
    - By living in Communion with the Church we bear witness to Jesus Christ
    - We mediate his presence
    - The Church is missionary by nature, and so we are called to participate in that missionary work
    - Invite people to Mass, share with them your faith, Christ is there and when you share it you share Christ
    - Be intentional about living in Communion with God through the Church
- Final Points
  - Jesus Christ unites us to God and raises up our humanity
  - Mary models obedience to us and prays that we follow her son in order to be with her in the future
  - The Church continues Jesus' ministry and unites us to the Father

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### Questions for Reflection

1. What was one thing you learned from tonight's presentation?
2. How do you participate in the mission of the Church?
3. How have you lived out our parish mission statement?