



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

From time to time, I have shared that I have a list, which is constantly growing, of phrases from Scripture. I like to recite them in my mind as I begin the day. Again, as I have shared, my all-time favorite is from the Gospel of John: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." This week for the feast of the Holy Trinity, the readings are short but very beautiful. Well, I found another line I'm going to have to add to my repertoire. In the First Reading, Moses meets God on the mountain, Who reveals Himself to him. Moses bows to the ground before the Lord and then says this beautiful prayer: "If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company." (Exodus 34: 8b) Wow! What a beautiful prayer and a great one to begin the day!... Please, Lord, come along with me this day. Keep me company. Walk with me. Be with me.

Fitting right in with this prayer, is another passage from Exodus that is also one of my favorites, Yes, I have a lot of them! This is from the story of the burning bush, when God first revealed Himself to Moses. In that encounter, God pronounces His name to Moses: I AM. There has been much written about this name of God. However, as wonderful as it is, there a passage just before that I find even more powerful, and it adds even more meaning to that prayer of invitation for God to join us each day. When Moses first goes over to investigate the burning bush and God reveals Himself, there is this absolutely moving statement: "the Lord said, 'I have witnessed the affliction of My people in Egypt and I have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering.'" That line always brings tears to my eyes. It is this God whom we are asking to walk with us today. Think about that.

To me, this is what the celebration of the Holy Trinity means. It is not a mathematical mystery of fitting One into Three and Three into One. It is about a caring God, a loving God, an involved God.

Some have a beautiful habit of bowing their head at the name of Jesus. I have a habit that I learned during a retreat at a Trappist monastery years ago. When the monks prayed the Divine Office, at the end of each Psalm, the Glory Be is prayed. All the monks made a profound bow at the mention of the Trinity. I never forgot that, and in that spirit, I try to also make a small gesture to acknowledge the majesty of the Omnipotent, but also humbly praise the tender love and mercy of our Triune God.

Life is not easy, but our God sees. He sees it all, everything that we go through. Perhaps our day would go better if we simply asked Him to "do come along in our company."

"God said, 'Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God your father,' He continued, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:5-6)