

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Year.C. 15/16 June 2019.

Some of us will remember the collapse of the old Soviet Bloc, and more particularly the overthrow of the oppressive Romanian dictatorship which ended on Christmas Day, 1989, with the execution of the dictator Nicolae Ceausceau and his equally evil and complicit wife Elena. Soon enough more of the horrors of this authoritarian regime emerged including the mal-treatment of thousands of disabled and unwanted children. We saw on our TV's their pitiful, condemned to filthy conditions and complete isolation from all human contact and loving care. They had lain chained in their bed for years, malnourished in every way, unclothed and unacknowledged. We saw dark brown eyes were empty of all life. They were unable to speak nor show emotion and feared all human touch.

40 years before this Romanian evil came to light the Kibbutz Movement in Israel was strong. Many Jewish people decided to raise their families and children communally on a Kibbutz close to the land they had lost for so long. After the horrors and holocaust of World War II as the new state of Israel began to develop the idea seemed 'enlightened'. Soon enough though, problems began to emerge. The children being raised as part of these large groups started to have behavioural dysfunctions. Relating to individuals became difficult and said that they felt unloved and unwanted.

Many good people came forwards to help and even adopt the Romanian orphans. Sadly, most of them were unable to grow up to anything resembling normality and many of them simply died when they left the only cruel and cold institutionalised world they had known. The Jewish

children of the Kibbutz experiment who were raised communally soon filled the hospitals and psychiatric wards of Israel. Many of them, too, have never been able to re-enter society or form lasting relationships.

We don't really need to know more about the meaning of the Trinity we honour and celebrate today than these examples teach us. They make it clear that we are made in God's image and likeness. They show us that we can only grow and flourish within a loving, caring environment which offers us the help of personal relationships that are accepting and acknowledging, just and responsible. Cut off from these sorts of experiences we very quickly warp, even withering away to death.

Our God is a loving community, a living and constant stream of intimate gazes full of complete loving and total acceptance between the persons we name as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's in the image and likeness of this God that we, and indeed all of creation, is made. What's more it's towards this loving gaze and embrace that we are all destined. Only meaningful, responsible, caring, accepting and forgiving relationships can enable us to become what we can be and help us along the road to where we must go.

Our families and schools, our Churches and communities, our associations and society itself must strive to be like this least they malform us making us unwell and miserable. Isolation, absence of care and loving warmth, is a cold emptiness and the quickest way to dying.

It goes totally against the grain of our own creation, against who we are made to be and what we are seeking which is meaningful relationships of understanding and love that mirror, even if only faintly, those of God.

What we must always bear in mind, in our groups discussions and Parish activities is this; the strengthening and development of true, meaningful caring and lasting relationships with each other and with our God, who is three in a community of perfect and loving oneness. Any other way, and anything less as my earlier examples made plain, can only end in grief for us and the making of hell, not heaven, here on earth.