October 2019

Dear Friends,

There are many "formularies" used to describe Church life. Pithy little sayings often directly taken from Scripture. "Yet You are Holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel." (Psalm 22:3) [Alternate translation: "inhabiting... [the praises of Israel."] The act of daily prayer fills our soul with gratitude to God, honoring God as the source of all life, and simultaneously lifting our soul to adore God simply for the embrace of pure, Holy Love, coming from Holy places! To sit at the Lord's feet, like Mary, is to choose the better part: as conflict dissolves in the desire to simply honor God.

This mystical union of the Soul with God is made complete in the issuance of love and concern for others. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ."
(Galations 6:2) "My commandment is this: Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) "When you did it to the least of these your siblings, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:34-40) Clearly when one is confronted with the radical compassion, love, and forgiveness shown in Jesus, our lives seem small unless we learn to give back those same spiritual gifts.

Holy Trinity, in its history, was fond of using incense to complement ritual and vestments, with the care to make liturgy reflect a catholicity in faith and practice. These ancient symbols were renewed in the Church, in large part, through the influence of the Oxford Movement (Oxford, UK; in the 1800's). After vigorous liturgy, congregants were known to visit the docks and tougher neighborhoods to bring food, clothing, and faith to the indigent. Where true love is given to God in prayer and liturgy, it of necessity results in the actions of loving compassion. The Eucharist, as sign of our unity in Christ, is completed when and where our service to the world commences. This, in turn, feeds our worship as we delight to bring the needs of hurting people before God in our public prayers. This is what September is all about: renewing our dedication to the worship of God and service to the world.

With every best wish I remain,

Your Friend and Rector, (The Reverend) Richard S. Signore