



BEC Weekly Gospel Encounter Guide
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
BEC SUNDAY 2023
June 4, 2023



A. OPENING SONG

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: In the name (+) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

All: O God of infinite love and grace, in Christ Jesus, we experience your immeasurable mercy. In that Spirit, we continually know your presence. We, your children, long to be in a relationship with you and one another. We seek to know you intimately and mirror your divine unity into our small communities. O God, and gather us as one people under your care, that we might share in your life in this world and the next. For this, we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

B. THE WORD OF GOD

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast invites us to consider what we believe about God, who has revealed himself to us in the Trinity—one God in three persons.

In the context of today’s focus on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the reading calls our attention to the action of God, who reveals himself in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father, out of love for the world, sent his Son into the world in order to save it. Through the death and resurrection of the Son, we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. As three persons, God acts always as a God of love; he does not condemn the world but acts to save it. The Gospel also calls attention to the response that is required of us. God’s love for us calls us to respond in faith by professing our belief in God’s son, Jesus, and the salvation that he has won for us. This profession of faith is a sign of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (*Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Sunday Connection, www.loyolapress.com*)

We also celebrate our 5th BEC Sunday today. We also reflect on what the future holds for our Basic Ecclesial Communities. We discern the Holy Spirit’s lead for us as

we continue to promote synodality and, at the same time, fulfill our mission of church renewal and ministering to our grassroots communities.

First Reading: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9
Resp. Psalm: Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Second Reading: 2 Cor 13:11-13

2. THEME

BECs IN SYNODALITY WITH BASIC HUMAN COMMUNITIES

3. GOSPEL READING: Jn 3:16-18

[All rise to honor the Gospel]

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Reflection

Reflect in silence for a few moments on the Bible passage just read.

4. GOSPEL COMMENTARY

The Mystery of Life, The Mystery of Love

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity or Trinity Sunday. The Trinitarian mystery is considered "the Mystery of all mysteries." This mystery is beyond our imagination. When it comes to speaking about God we are lost for words. Our limited mind can't come to terms with the infinite attributes of God. For us Christians, God is that love. God is that life.

Our own personal experience of love, of deep friendship, might give us the flicker of a glimmer of understanding of God who is love. In loving one another there is the delight, the beauty, of bonding together, of being there for each other. This is something enriching, satisfying – indeed, mutually life-giving!

So it is with God...three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their life is a communion of love. As the Trinity reaches 'outside itself' towards our world, which it has created and now sustains, there is a divine collaboration between the Heavenly Father, 'through our Lord Jesus Christ, His Son, who lives and reigns with him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.' And yet, the sweetest of all mysteries is that the self-contained, self-sufficient, almighty God with magnificent openness and

generosity has created us human beings with one purpose, that, while living under his Lordship, we might be drawn into the divine love-circle and share its bliss, its fullness of being, its holiness.

It is surprising, absolutely extraordinary, that God who does not need our company actually wants us to enjoy his company...here and now, in our present earthly existence, for Jesus said to his disciples, “*Remain in me, as I in you,*” (Jn.15.17). Jesus, the Son of God, has revealed to us the Blessed Trinity. As we allow ourselves to be drawn into the life, the love, of the Triune God we discover the mystery that is ourselves, and, indeed, the mystery of one another! It is the sweet mystery of life and of love. We have found this, or better, it is God’s supreme gift to us. (*An excerpt from the Reflections of Fr. Peter Clarke, OP, torch.op.org*)

It is not surprising that we celebrate BEC Sunday during the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (or Trinity Sunday) for our communion in the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) finds inspiration in the unity-in-diversity of the Triune God as revealed to us by Jesus. BECs, therefore, should be governed by love and become channels to experience the love of God. In 1991, the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II) affirmed the utmost importance of BEC as “a new way of being Church” – a significant expression of Church renewal: *Our vision of the Church as participation, communion, and mission, about the Church as priestly, prophetic and kingly people and as a Church of the poor – a Church that is renewed – is today finding expression in one ecclesial movement. This is the movement to foster Basic Ecclesial Communities.* (PCP II, 137)

But we cannot be genuinely BECs if we do not journey in synodality with our world today. Synodality, after all, is the heart of BECs. More and more, we realize that we are not simply faced with ecclesial concerns but various socio-economic-political-health-environmental concerns affecting our Basic Human Communities. We cannot move forward without seriously considering these concerns and refocusing our attention to our human communities. We are not simply called to offer a “faith-interpretation” of things happening and challenges we face; we are also called to help overcome them just as Jesus did. Many efforts have been made and are being made to promote this “new way of being Church today” but many more are still to be done. BECs can be signs of hope in the society we live in.

Going back to the Solemnity we celebrate today, the Holy Trinity is not simply a concept to be memorized but persons to be loved. Similarly, our BECs are not simply terms to be understood but mission to be fulfilled. BECs are not impossible dreams nor wishful thinking but realities slowly unfolding in our society calling for our full and active participation.

C. GROUP SHARING

[As much as possible, everybody takes turns sharing while the rest listen attentively. Keep your sharing brief and relevant to the topic. Don't bring in extraneous matters.]

- **What are the expressions of God’s love you experience in your BECs amid the various socio-economic-political-health-environmental concerns we face?**
- **How do you think can your BEC journey in synodality with “the least, last and lost,” non-Christians and non-believers, Indigenous Peoples, and the environment?**

D. INTEGRATION

The facilitator or any member of the group gives a summary/insight on the points learned/taken up during the meeting, then facilitates group response:

- What did we learn from the Gospel Encounter?
- What can we do to help each other, our family, BEC, and our parish?

E. OTHER MATTERS

1. Individual/family/community concerns
2. Parish activities/announcements
3. Time and Venue for the next BEC meeting

F. CLOSING PRAYER

All: Christ Jesus, it is through you that we come to know and experience how much God loves us. Your love heals and restores. Guide us to make our Basic Ecclesial Community a communion of love patterned after your love. Forgive us if, at times, we fail to respond to the immediate needs of our neighbors. We commit to love our neighbors as we love ourselves from now on. May you continue to be with us in our mission of renewing the Church. May we truly journey in synodality with the basic human communities we belong to and concretely respond to the felt needs of your people. May you always be with us as we commit ourselves to be your hands and feet in bringing your presence to the peripheries and gathering people under your care. Amen.

May God (+) the Father who created us, the Son who saves us, and the Spirit who sanctifies us, bless us and our family and BEC now and always. Amen.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord...

All: And give him thanks!

CLOSING SONG