

The Grace to Accept Our Need for God
June 12, 2022 – The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Gospel of John 16:12-15
Fr. Brad

Recently I watched a movie directed by Clint Eastwood who is now 91 years old. The movie was called Cry Macho and it held my interest. The story line was simple and not relevant to this homily but it got me thinking about what goes into directing a movie. It's a big responsibility as you have to coordinate a lot of things and a lot of people...especially if you are, like Eastwood, going to ACT in the movie as well.

So when I spotted an article about Eastwood's directing style of directing I read it with some curiosity.

Apparently he has a reputation of moving things along quickly on the set. That is, he often films scenes in one take - - some directors do as many as 50 - 100 takes before they are satisfied with the shot.

It makes me wonder if those directors are a little obsessive compulsive by nature. Anyway, in the article, it says that actor Matt Damon once asked Eastwood if he could do another take. Eastwood responded, "yeah...if you want to waste everybody's time."

For some reason, that phrase stuck with me. I can apply that phrase to myself in many ways when, for instance, I feel like I need to do a retake; that is, a retake of an event in my life. I'm sure we can all think of moments in our lives we would like to have over again.

As far as Scripture goes, I am sure Peter would have wanted a retake after denying Jesus. Perhaps David too, after he committed murder and adultery.

Nevertheless, each of us must move on despite that fact that we can never do a retake.

In our readings today, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with our Creator and how much we are beloved. Our dignity as His children is affirmed in the first reading, and our justification by faith is addressed in the second reading when Paul says, 'It is through grace that we have access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

In the Gospel, Jesus informs His followers that there is much more to learn and experience but we cannot bear it all at once.

In other words, we are not in charge. There is One who sees all and that's the One who created all. And it's not us. Therefore, we need to catch ourselves when we start thinking we know more than we do. Because then we start taking over from God. The best we can do is love and trust. **The guidance of the Holy Spirit is available to us that we may participate in the love relationship between the Father and the Son who invites us into that relationship.**

That participation means that we are invited to freely give and to receive love. It means accepting other people's differences, accepting that our perspective is clouded with personal biases. It also means that what we personally perceive as failure in ourselves or in others, may well be part of the plan of salvation if we trust that God is working in ways we do not understand. If we allow room for the Spirit of God to work, and we wait on God, we discover that great things can be accomplished in us **because we did not get in the way of God's work within us.**

Therefore, leave the parts we don't understand to God who is the director. Leave room for the Holy Spirit who subtly informs us of a narrative that is beyond our control, a narrative that is greater than anything we can fully plan for and implement ourselves. Don't waste everybody's time by insisting on our own way. There is much more at play than our tiny perspective of the world and in how things should unfold. Learn not to expect the feedback you think you deserve. **Trust in a greater purpose and value than what you can readily see yourself.**

We may have our own idea about what constitutes perfection but it will always fall short of the bigger plan that is unfolding. We must look beyond our own thought patterns and egos for what is right and seek the perfection of God who has the bigger picture. That's where St. Paul's justification by faith comes in.

May we grow in our ability to call on and trust in the ways of divine love.