

Homily for Trinity Sunday
St. Joseph's Neier
Rev. Kevin Schmittgens

June 14-15, 2014

Central Idea: When we are open to the infinite, our hearts become fuller and our lives become richer.

Have you ever laid out in the grass on a moonless evening and gazed at the stars?

Not just noticed,
not just become aware of,
not just looked,
but gazed, really gazed,
gazed to the point where you get lost in the stars.

Living in the city, amidst the glare of man made lights, you get to see two maybe three stars in the sky, if any at all. It is tough to get lost when there are only a couple of points of light in the night sky. But out here in the country, you can witness the wonder, the marvel, the absolute mystery of the universe.

Consider the simple fact that light travels 186,000 miles per *second*. The sunlight that you see has taken 8 minutes and 17 seconds to get to earth. The light from those stars may have started the journey thousands, even millions of years ago. In our galaxy, the Milky Way, there are an estimated 100 thousand million stars and we are only one of millions upon millions of galaxies. There are a lot of stars to get lost in.

And if you do that, if you get lost in the immensity, the grandeur, the magnificence of the night sky, you get a radical insight into the splendor of the infinite, into the miracle of the eternal, into the very heart of the divine.

You get a couple of insights as you gaze. The first is not all that appealing. As you gaze into the infinite, you get a disturbing glimpse at your own insignificance and unimportance. You are only one of 7 billion people on a small planet in a dinky solar system which is literally one of several billion other solar systems. If you are lucky you are only on this speck of dust for a hundred years, which in the great scheme of things is only a quick blip of time. Getting lost in the stars can be somewhat unsettling.

And yet, the other insight you get is that you are, as the Scriptures say, "wonderfully made." The fact that little ol' you can actually wonder about the immensity and the grandeur, you can realize and come to terms your own insignificance, that you can enter into the eternal in your mind and heart is pretty amazing. The fact that your mind can gather these insights, can work through these issues, can wonder about wonder is nothing short of astonishing.

So as you gaze a couple of things start to happen, you begin to comprehend your station in life, the disquieting insignificance and the mind-boggling marvel of your personal existence. You also begin to realize that God, the Triune foundation of all being, has chosen to enter into your existence, to grace it with goodness and joy, to save it from darkness and sin, hate and malice. You begin to realize that the immensity of the lights of the night sky and much more beyond that has entered into your heart, your soul, your life as we celebrated last week on Pentecost. You begin to understand that you are one with the beyond, with the infinite, with the eternal. It has entered your heart at baptism, it was confirmed in your soul at Confirmation. It is all there in the palm of your hand each and every time you receive the Eucharist.

And all of these insights, all of these notions, all of these inspirations should change you, should transform you, should alter your life. As Paul told the Corinthians centuries ago, so now it is revealed:

*Brothers and sisters, rejoice.
Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

You are not allowed to star gaze and not be different. Maybe that is why so many people prefer to simply remain in the dark.