

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! One of my favorite poems referencing the Trinity is Holy Sonnet 14 written by the English poet, John Donne. It's a poem found in the back of the Roman Catholic Breviary and it's worth reading. On this Trinity Sunday, I share it with you here in all its realness and rawness and ask you to pray with it this week. But first, a brief word about the author, John Donne, and his times.

Donne was born into a Catholic family, at a time when Anti-Catholicism in England was very high (1572). His father died when he was four years old and his mother, Elizabeth, who was a great-niece of the martyr Sir Thomas More and a sister of a Catholic priest, certainly had her hands full. Donne was a bright young man but because of his Catholic Faith and his refusal to take the Oath of Supremacy, he was not permitted to graduate Oxford or Cambridge Universities. As a boy, he was a witness to the martyrdom and torture of Catholics and this influenced him in dramatic ways. He knew the seriousness of faith and throughout his life he took it seriously. This is displayed in his writings. As an adult, John Donne left the Catholic Church, became an Anglican Priest. He was a member of the Parliament, a husband, father of 12 children and one of England's most renowned religious poets.

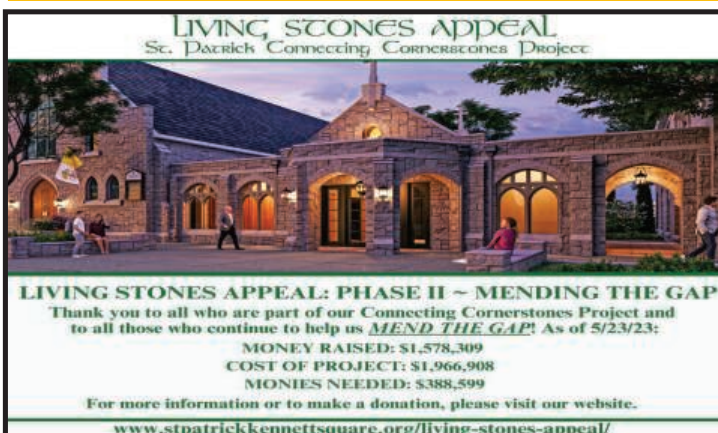
In Holy Sonnet 14, the language is powerful and forceful. Certainly, it's reflective of Donne's times and self-knowledge. As I read it, I find its language to be a great gift; a refreshing antidote to the malaise, flatness and sterility that our world makes of religion. In Donne's time, there was nothing flat and sterile about religion and certainly, there is nothing flat and sterile about the Trinity. Thanks be to God!

As we celebrate God, the Most Holy Trinity, may praying this poem, awaken in you what needs awakening, the Truth of who God is! And May that Living Good grant a new Zeal, Zest and Desire for all that is true!

**Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurp'd town to another due,
Labour to admit you, but oh, to no end;
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;
Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.**

Peace , Fr. Rogers

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LIVING STONES APPEAL
St. Patrick Connecting Cornerstones Project

LIVING STONES APPEAL: PHASE II ~ MENDING THE GAP
Thank you to all who are part of our Connecting Cornerstones Project and to all those who continue to help us **MEND THE GAP!** As of 5/23/23:
MONEY RAISED: \$1,578,309
COST OF PROJECT: \$1,966,908
MONIES NEEDED: \$388,599
For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website.
www.stpatrickkennettsquare.org/living-stones-appeal/



**St. Patrick Welcomes
Father Randy Kraft
Saturday, June 17, 2023
Celebrating the 5:00 PM Vigil**