

**Trinity Sunday, May 18-2008
160th Celebration Trinity Church
Janesville, Wisconsin**

**I must have been 11 or 12 years old; I do remember
that it cost 25 cents and a certain number of cereal
box tops: Captain Midnight Secret Decoder Ring!
Wow! Codes, signs, secrets!**

**I am still big on secrets, mysteries, discoveries! To the
best of my knowledge all married couples share
secrets. I mean secret, special, personal codes, words,
names:
Here are few I have come across: honey, sweetie,
Lover boy, sweet thing, sugar, tiger, (feel free to
Contribute your own!)**

**Might I be so bold to say that if your wife learns over the
pillow some evening soon and says, 'Come on over Love
Muffin', don't you dare hesitate! ACT!**

**Now, why am I sharing this very common information
with you this special morning. I believe that we create and use
these special terms of endearment because of the very nature
of love!**

**Love cannot be confined, limited to a singularity of expression;
No, it just creates, overflows, ever expressing itself, but not just in
The marriage arena but what we are celebrating this morning:**

TRINITY SUNDAY

160 Years of TRINITY CHURCH!

**[2]
Trinity: one God three names; God's love is so lavish,
So overflowing, so encompassing we are compelled to
Use a basket of names; in the Old Testament alone:**

**Elohim, Yahweh, fire, eagle, king, lord, Lord God,
Most High, shield,, judge, Father, creator...I could go on and
On...**

**And the New Testament: Jesus is described Son of Man, So of
God, shepherd, Way, Truth, Life, Light, Bread, Water, Gate,
And on and on...**

**So, all the names and especially the Name TRINITY is a
Constant reminder of the many faceted love of God, 160 years of**

Proclaiming the divine love.

A story from the desert area of New Mexico: at the edge of the desert area was a derelict, dilapidated shack; outside stood an old rusted pump and hanging on the handle a rusting baking soda can. On the can was a taped message that read as follows:

‘Under the flat rock to your left is a small bottle of water; you will need every drop of it to soak the washer and prime the pump; do not drink even one drop of this water; it contains just enough to prime the pump.

When you are finished drinking please refill the bottle and place it under the flat rock. Signed Desert Harry.

There has been lots of ‘pump priming’ at Trinity Church over the 160 years! The water, of course, is Christ Jesus, and those who have drunk from it drink to everlasting life!

We are this generation’s tenants; we do not own the well nor The Water! That’s exactly why our Eucharist is called THE GREAT THANKSGIVING!

But as Christian stewards we are the guardians, the care takers of the well we call Trinity Church! We must so live and act in faith that THE FAITH is passed on and the pump working well!

[3]

There is an old saying about the basic job of the Church:

- 1. Gather the Folks (go out into the highways and byways)**
- 2. Tell the story (old, old story)**
- 3. Break the Bread (eating drink the life of the Resurrection Christ.**

I am compelled to add a 4th job for Trinity Church:

- 4. Take the ‘good news;’ story out into the community – the world outside these doors!**

I was struck deeply within this Easter morning when I heard The Evangelist John’s account about Mary Magdalene arriving at the Tomb, surprised by the stone being rolled away, and then shocked by the presence of two angels.

As she is turning to leave, she almost bumps into her resurrected Lord. At first she thinks he is a gardener, but when he calls her by Name she recognizes him. Immediately, she wants to lovingly embrace him; instead he says ,’Don’t cling to me, but go and tell the disciples I have risen.

Mary Magdalene becomes the first evangelist- telling the good !news.

Go and Tell – kid’s school game SHOW AND TELL!

Mary is not to hold him; Jesus is not a private deity, not a household God. Not someone we cling to, but rather someone we share!

As we begin our 161st year..are