

Trinity C.19; Prov 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; John 16:12-15; *Unity in Love*

Today we speak of a *Mystery*. We celebrate our God, *YHWH, Elohim, El Shaddai, Adonai, Pantokrator*, and more familiar to us, *the Most Holy Trinity*.

But what do we really know of this mystery?

A priest was sitting in a Chicago airport waiting for his plane. A man sat down beside him and began to give his opinions on religion. He boasted: “I won’t accept anything I can’t understand. Take this business of three Gods in one God or whatever it is. I can’t buy that.

Nobody can explain it to me, so I will not believe it.”

Pointing to the sun streaming in the window, the priest asked: “Do you believe in the sun?” “Why, of course,” the doubter admitted. The priest continued, “All right then, *the rays* you see coming through that window are from the sun, 90,000,000 miles from here. *The heat* we feel comes from both the sun and from its rays.

The Holy Trinity is something like that. The sun is God the Father; the sun sends out its rays, God the Son. Then from both the sun and its rays, from the Father and the Son, proceeds or comes the Holy Spirit, the heat.

Can you explain how that happens?” The doubter quickly changed the subject.

There is more to life than meets the eye. (Adapted; *Stories for All Seasons*, Fuller, p.108)

That analogy is as old as Athanasius (+373 CE), a 4th century church Father, who wanted to show how the Father and the Son had always existed as co-eternal

... and co-equal. *Light from light, true God from true God.*

But our God is much more personal. Perhaps we need to see our God as “relationship” following Paul’s lead, “*the love of God has been poured out*

... into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

We, human beings are defined by our capacity for relationship. Made in the image and likeness of God, which is LOVE, we cannot live isolated. God is Love that communicates in his creation and his relationship with us. This is what we celebrate today. By saying that God *is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit* we are not

making a tongue-twister or a riddle. We say that it is a Mystery, but in the sense that it is something very sacred and awesome because it refers to the very nature of

God. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are relationship, community;
and, if this is the nature of God and we are made in this divine image and likeness,
... our relationships will be like those of God.

After Jesus' death, the disciples felt the presence of the Spirit of God who gave them the courage to announce the Good News of the reign of God. The Spirit continues to inspire and to encourage many, to carry on with this proclamation of salvation for all. **God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**

... are these three ways of looking at the same reality?

No, there is much more than that.

2 They are not ways of seeing but a single way of being: *God is a mystery of love, of relationship.* When we experience the presence of God in our lives, we feel called to participate in that love and to share this love with those around us.

To live as God is to live loving all of creation.

True love is definitely hard work! It's in the *daily* difficulties & joys where love is practiced. True love is tested in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth;

in other words, one loves a person **just how they are**

... and not depending on the circumstances.

True love requires great patience, because the person we love will not always do what we agree with or approve! *True love* requires great mercy and forgiveness of the faults of others, as well as our own! *True love* requires a memory that keeps the good and tries to forget the bad; it requires clear vision to see

... the other person as God does: in all their beautiful humanness!

To love well requires starting again every day; it truly demands an enormous self-sacrifice *to commit* even if you do not see an immediate reward.

Why go to all this trouble?

It is a simple and profound - because the love of God toward us is unconditional, generous, free, committed, and *sacrificed until his death on the cross*. It is only through love - that we find Life and are Human; without loving,

... we would lose our identity as children and the image of God.

(Some ideas, Nuestra Parroquia, May, 2019)

To discover this divine Reality is to discover who we are.

Jesus explains that the Spirit *“will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”* What is Jesus' is also what is the Fathers. Jesus says, *“Everything that the Father has is mine.”* There is no “yours and mine,” in the Godhead -only “ours”, as the three interweave in a communion of love in which there is no possessiveness

and likewise no claims of priority. (Adapted; *America*, 5/24/10/Reid) Jesus promised that as we deepen our relationship with one another, our lives will start to reflect *the very life of the Trinity*. This is how we can experience the joy

... we were meant to know as Christians!

Let's listen to the *Wisdom of children*. In a real, "Letter to God", one child wrote this. *Dear GOD: I bet it is very hard for **You** to love everybody in the whole*

world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. Love, Nan

At this Liturgy of our God, the Most Holy Trinity, little Nan has pointed us in the right direction. The Most Holy Trinity is literally "unity in diversity" *in an eternal relationship of Love*. More than just a model for togetherness: *the Trinity* gives

us *the power to live this reality!* **We** were made *to be* in communion with one another, joining together to build the Kingdom and to proclaim the gospel to all of Creation. **No worries! It's a tall order, but with God all things are possible!**