

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We celebrate Trinity Sunday, this weekend. This is the central Mystery of our Faith. Our belief that God is three Persons in one God is radically different from every other religion in the world. Other *monotheists*, such as Judaism and Islam, believe that there is one God, and that God is only one Person. *Polytheists*, such as Hinduism or Pagan religions, believe that there are many gods. As Christians, I think we have lost track of how radically strange our Faith is. We have taken our Faith for granted!

So what does it mean that God is One yet Three, Three yet One? Well, that's hard to say. It is a Mystery – but remember that Mystery in the Christian sense means that we can truly know a part of it, but that what we don't know is greater. Take for instance a man who has been married to a woman for fifty years. I would bet that he would be able to claim that he knows her much better than he did when he was courting her. Yet, I would also venture to bet (from the many husbands that I have known over the years) that he would claim that his wife in many ways is still a *mystery*! There is an awe before the beauty of this mystery. We can speak about what we know about God, but there is always, *always* much more we don't know about Him!

The heart of the Mystery of the Trinity is

### **God is relationship**

Think about this: for all eternity, God the Father has been in relationship – in relationship with God the Son. Their relationship of eternal, infinite love is so real it is a Divine Person: the Holy Spirit.

What does this mean for us? It means that at the core of who God is, is relationship, love. He desires not to be Lord over us, but to be in relationship – a relationship of love. This is what free will is about. If all God wanted was to have minions over which He could exert His power, why would He give us free will? If all God wanted was to delight in watching His creatures act on instinct, He would have only made animals. But God made *us*. God gave us free will because He longs for us to love Him back. Robots cannot love. Only those with free will can love – angels and human beings. To force love is not love. God gives us free will so that we can love Him. This means that we are free to choose NOT to love Him. This pains God's Heart deeply, especially when people decide that for all eternity they do not want to love God (and so choose Hell instead of God). Yet, God allows this pain in His Heart, this deep and immense wound, because the "pay off" for those who *do* love Him is worth it. When we choose to be in relationship with God, when we choose to return the love that He has poured out upon us, He rejoices with the greatest joy! When we choose relationship with God, we become who God made us to be, and in finding that, we find fulfillment and joy!

I encourage you this week to ponder this – **God is relationship**. Every relationship you have is possible *only* because God *is* relationship. Rejoice and ask God to help you to enter more deeply into this relationship with Him.