

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

This weekend is the celebration of Trinity Sunday. The Mystery of the Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian Faith. Before we get into that, however, just a reminder of what “mystery” means, when we use it in a Catholic context.

When we speak of a mystery of Faith, we are not using the word “mystery” as we would with literature (a mystery novel, for instance) – something unknown that, if we paste all of the pieces together, we will finally understand. Nor are we using the word “mystery” as a shortcut for “I don’t know, so stop asking questions.” One analogy I like to use when speaking of Faith Mysteries is that of the Atlantic Ocean. I know, experientially, the Atlantic Ocean: I have watched it, walked in it, dove into it, and even snorkeled. My experience, however, is greatly limited; there is so much I *don’t know* about the ocean: far more than I know. There are people that study the ocean, go deep sea diving, and even explore the depths in submarines. They have experienced the Atlantic far more than I, yet even after a lifetime, they will never know all about the Atlantic – it is so vast that there is always more to know. Our God is infinite, and while our experience of God is *real* – we really know God – it is limited. The more we study and pray and experience of God the more we really know. The fullness of God is always beyond us, though.

The Mystery of the Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian Faith. This separates us from every other Faith on the planet, for we believe that there is only ONE GOD, yet there are THREE PERSONS in this one God. There are NOT three gods – there’s only One. Nor are each of the three persons just “the way that God acts” (for instance: when He is creating He is acting as Father, when He is redeeming He is acting as Son, when He is sanctifying He is acting as Holy Spirit). No, there are three distinct persons (the Father is NOT the Son nor the Holy Spirit, and the Son is NOT the Father nor the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is NOT the Father nor the Son). Are you confused yet?

This mystery is a mystery of relationship. At the heart of the life of God is relationship – love between the Father and the Son eternally poured out in the Spirit. We can be in relationship with others, we can know *love* only because God IS LOVE, and has made us in His image and likeness. I’ll say this again: we can love because God is Love. The love relationship of the Trinity is the very ground for our ability to be in relationship – to love and be loved.

Since God becoming one of us (Jesus), the Holy Spirit can now draw our humanity into the Heart of God. We get to be in the Heart of the eternal, Trinitarian life! The dignity which God has bestowed upon us should *blow our minds* and cause us constantly to be thanking Him for his superabundant gifts! This is the relationship God has planned for us – to enter into His Heart. Had He been radically ONE, there would be no room to enter. Since He is three-in-one, we can penetrate into His Heart.

It’s all a lot to take in, but then again, it is the central mystery of the Christian Faith. This mystery is one whose depth has no bottom. May we spend our whole lives delving into the depths of this mystery so our souls may be ready when we see Him face to face!