

## FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is one of the harder parts of our Faith to explain. Let's see: God is One. Then we have the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. But the Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, and the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. Yet, they are One God!

Hmmm...

Confused yet? Yet, this is the central Mystery of our Faith. There's that words again: Mystery. Too often we think that this means we can know nothing about it: "Well, it's a mystery, so you'll never know." When we speak about Mysteries of Faith, though, it is not that we don't know anything about it, but that it is so deep, we can't take the whole thing in.

Here's an analogy: You can know the Atlantic Ocean. You can know it by studying it, but you can also know it by experience: watching the tide come in at Hampton Beach; walking with your feet in the Ocean; body surfing the waves; going out snorkeling or SCUBA diving; or you can even take a submarine and go explore the deep recesses of the Atlantic. Each of these gives you more of an understanding of the Ocean. But can anyone know all there is about the Atlantic? Even if they spent their entire lives studying and experiencing the Ocean, I would dare say there would always be more to learn, more to know.

The same thing with the Mysteries of our Faith. We CAN really know God, but there is *always more!* Thanks be to God for that. Imagine if our God was small enough for us to understand! Would He be worth worshipping?!

When it comes to the Mystery of the Trinity, we have to remember that we cannot grasp God by our intellect (though it is right and good to use it to try to untangle the Mysteries of Faith), but we can grasp Him by our love. We can come to know God, even when He is beyond our intellects. Trying to fit God into our minds might be like trying to dump the entire ocean into a hole we dug on the seashore, but we CAN hold onto Him with our hearts!

This means that while it is important to study the important truths of our Faith, knowledge of these means nothing if we do not have a relationship with God. You might be able to discuss how the nature of God is lived out in three distinct persons who are each fully God, but if you don't KNOW God, it is worthless. This means we need to cultivate a relationship with the Father, with the Son, and with the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray today that we may come to know God more intimately!