

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

Deut 4:32-34, 39-40

Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

Rom 8:14-17

Mt 28:16-20

THE TRINITY IS LOVE!

There is an old story about St. Augustine reflecting on the mystery of the Holy Trinity. In his attempt to make a clear and understandable explanation of the mystery, he decided to walk along the seashore one day. As he walked along, he saw a small boy on the beach, pouring seawater with a shell into a small hole in the sand. **"What are you doing, my child?"** asked Augustine. **"I am trying to empty the sea into this hole,"** the boy answered with an innocent smile. **"But that is impossible, my dear child,"** said Augustine. The boy stood up, looked straight into the eyes of Augustine and replied, **"What you are trying to do - trying to comprehend the immensity of God with your small head - is even more impossible."** And then the boy vanished. It was an angel sent by God to teach Augustine a lesson. Later, Augustine wrote in his reflection: **"You see the Trinity if you see love."** According to St. Augustine, **the Father is the lover, the Son is the loved one and the Holy Spirit is the personification of the very act of loving.**

St. Augustine's reflection wanted to convey that in order for us to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity we have to look at it in the context of love. Since the Holy Trinity is love in action, a perfect picture of God's love, therefore, we will better comprehend it by using our heart rather than using our feeble mind. Yes, it is a mystery that can only be understood by love.

The Holy Trinity reminds us that God the Father, **creates**; God the Son, **redeems**; and God the Holy Spirit, **inspires/sanctifies**. Again, it does not mean that there are three gods. Rather, we believe that there are three separate persons but still one God. Now, these 'three persons in one God' always acts in love and for love of us. When God acted as **Creator**, he created us in love. When God came as the **Redeemer**, he saved us with love. When God came back as the **Sanctifier**, he empowered us to love. Everything in the Holy Trinity is love!

When we were baptized, we were baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity – **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**. We belong to the Holy Trinity. If we belong to the Holy Trinity, therefore, we are expected to act in love, for love, and with love. It is in our action of love, in love, for love, and with love that people will know we belong to God.

I am sure you remember the lyrics of the song, **"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love."** composed by Fr. Peter Scholtes in the 1960's based on John 13:35 that says: **"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

In the celebration of the Mass, we are always reminded of the Holy Trinity **from the moment we make the Sign of the Cross in the beginning of the celebration; the formulation of our prayers; the ritual signing on our forehead, lips, and heart in the proclamation of the Gospel; the profession of the Creed; and in the dismissal.** If the Holy Trinity is love, then our celebration is a celebration of love. It is a celebration calling us to love like the Holy Trinity.

Many years ago, a person approached me and asked, **“Father, where can I find the word ‘Trinity’ in the bible?”** I told the person, **“The word ‘Trinity’ is not in the bible. The word ‘Trinity’ came from two words: ‘TRI’ means ‘three’ and ‘UNITY’ means ‘one.’ Hence, ‘trinity’ means ‘three-in-one.’”** The person replied, **“Father, some are saying that if it is not in the bible, it is not true.”** I smiled and said, **“That’s not necessarily true. Why? If we are going to reflect deeper the words of the Lord Jesus we will see that he revealed this truth when he commanded his disciples by saying: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28:16-20)**

In the bible there are many instances that the Lord Jesus spoke about the Father. In John 10:25, for example, the Lord Jesus said: **“The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me.”** In John 10:30, he said: **“The Father and I are one.”** With regard to the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus said in John 15:26, **“When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.”** After the resurrection, the Lord Jesus said in John 20:22-23, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”** Clearly, the Lord Jesus never used the word ‘trinity’ but he revealed the concept of it when he talked about **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

As we celebrate today the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**, we ask God to give us the grace to be agents of His love. May the love we demonstrate in words and deeds inspire others to be disciples of the Holy Trinity – **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

May God bless us in His love!