

Sunday Homily Most Holy Trinity – A

May 18, 2008

By Deacon Jeff Claar

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.”

As Catholics, we make the sign of the cross invoking the Trinity as easily as we draw a breath. It is how we begin and end everything, it is the sign of our faith, and we can do it without thinking. But today, as we celebrate the great gift of the Most Holy Trinity, let's back up and really think about what, or better yet who, the Trinity is...

To begin, let's check with the resident theologian whom most of us consult... Father Flood in the bulletin! Fr. Flood has a parishioner pose the question, “So explain the Trinity to me.” And Fr. Flood has to answer, “I'm not sure I can. That's pretty much of a mystery actually.” And the parishioner responds, “Humph!” and walks away apparently unsatisfied with the answer.

Before we blame Fr. Flood for his answer, let's put ourselves in his shoes. What if someone asked you, “you're Catholic right? Can you explain the Trinity to me?” Well, if you can remember these three things, your answer could be worse:

- * The Trinity is a mystery
- * Belief in the Trinity is only by the gift of Faith
- * The Trinity reveals to us God's plan for our salvation.

The Trinity as Mystery

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God Himself. (CCC 234) A mystery is something that is beyond our human capacity to understand. So, if the Trinity is One God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit it is okay to say that it is a mystery.

Belief in the Trinity is only by the gift of Faith

The Catechism tells us that “The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.” (CCC 232) It is only by faith that we can believe something that we do not fully understand for ourselves. Think of a child's faith in their parents. As children we believe what our parents tell us is true and is good for us, at least to a certain age! As sons and daughters of God, it is okay for us to believe those things revealed by God that are simply beyond our ability to understand. Faith is a gift offered to everyone by God, but just like the teenager who thinks they know it all, we can choose to believe what God says is true.

The Trinity reveals to us God's plan for our salvation

God has left traces of his Trinitarian nature in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. (CCC 237) On the very first page of the Bible God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” (Gen 1:26) Did God just use the plural pronoun “us” here?

Well, if God is speaking and He says “us” it is okay to believe that God could be more than one, yet still one God! God is God and He can be what He is. He doesn't have to limit Himself to what we can understand.

And just a few chapters later after the devil convinces Adam and Eve to disobey God, God knows that He must promise the Redeemer, His Son Jesus Christ to His fallen people. God says, "I will put enmity (hatred) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers: He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel." (Gen 3:15)

If God is speaking and He promises the devil that the offspring of the woman Mary, who is Jesus Christ will strike at his head, it is okay to believe that God the Father will send God the Son to redeem us back to Him. And when God the Son tells us he will send God the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns again, it is okay to believe this too.

Remember God is a mystery and we can believe this mystery only by Faith. And as a child of God, it is okay to believe what our Father says and put our Faith in Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and His plan for us.

So again, what is the Most Holy Trinity?

The Trinity is a MYSTERY, that we believe by FAITH, that reveals God's plan for our SALVATION.

Repeat after me...