



## ***TRINITY SUNDAY – June 16, 2019***

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. As I have said each year on this feast day, it is one of the most profound mysteries of our faith. If God had not revealed the existence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we could not begin to imagine what the existence of God is all about.

When I was in the seminary, we had a whole semester on the Trinity. It was called “*De Deo Uno et Trino*”. On the Oneness and the Threeness of God. At the end of the semester the professor asked the class. Who now understands the Trinity? All the guys who raised their hands were told they failed the course. When all is said and done, the Trinity is a mystery. We know “that it is”, but we don't know “how it is”.

Given that as a starting point, there are some things we can say about the Trinity. The Trinity is not a mathematical problem. It's not a matter of how “three equals one” and “one equals three”. That is simply impossible.

Scholastic philosophers make a distinction between person and nature. When you ask the question WHO, the answer to the question is a person. When you ask the question WHAT the answer to that question is the nature of a thing. Person and Nature are not the same thing.

When we speak about the Trinity, we say there are three persons in one nature. So, it's not a question of how three equals one or one equals three. Consider those two questions applied to the Holy Trinity.

Who is the Trinity, The Trinity is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit - three persons - three separate and distinct persons. What is the Trinity. the Trinity is God, one God - one and the same nature. The three persons think with the same mind and choose with the same will. You and I have the same human nature, but separate and distinct. You cannot think with my mind and I cannot choose with you will.

If you would like to read in greater depth about the Trinity and other mysteries of our faith, there is a marvelous book by Frank Sheed called “*Theology and Sanity*”. It's available now as an e-book. In that book, Sheed explains what we can and cannot know about the nature of God.

My Mom and Dad, never read that book but every time they made the sign of the cross, they expressed their faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They no longer need to make distinctions between person and nature like we do. They are now with God and for them and for all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, the Trinity is no longer a mystery.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on how the Blessed Trinity is a part of your prayer life here on earth. May we all be in heaven one day, where the Trinity will no longer be a mystery for us.