

## **Most Holy Trinity - 2018**

Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

Did you ever lose your keys? I mean not that you dropped them somewhere and they are gone, but that you went to where you put them in your own house and they're just not there. I'm a bit absent minded myself, and this sometimes happens to me. You say "what the heck," and start looking for them. You search every place you can think of, then you start looking for them again - finally you find them in a weird place and have no idea how they got there. When asked how to explain this you might say that "it is a mystery," which means that you know what the truth is (that the keys were in refrigerator), but you can't explain it (and don't even remember going into the refrigerator since you got home). This is the nature of mystery: something that we know is true, but we have no way of explaining how it happened or how it works.

When we speak of the Trinity, we speak of a reality that we know from God's revelation is true (that God is three persons, yet is still one God), but we can't explain how it is possible that one being can be three persons. We can only be one person. Even if you were to say that you became a different person when you changed your personality or acted a different role, you still can only be one person at a time - you can't be two or three distinct, unique, and different persons at the same time. But God can! God doesn't become one person at one time, then another person at another time (like sometimes he is Father, and other times Son, and at another time the Holy Spirit), nor is God broken into parts (so that part of him is Father, and other part is Son, and another part is Holy Spirit). All of God, in all places, is at the same time Father, Son and Holy Spirit simultaneously- how does that work?! It is a "mystery" (like the keys in the refrigerator), we know that this is true, but you can't really explain it.

So why should we even worry about this? Why are we even talking about this? Because understanding who God is tells us about who we are, and knowing who we are helps us to understand how to live. ... This God who is so beyond understanding, this God who can do tremendous things (like be three persons at the same time) has chosen us. St Paul tells us that God has chosen us to be adopted children. Children that are united to the body of God the Son in baptism, and are heirs to the kingdom of God the Father, through the power of God the Holy Spirit. As part of the body of Jesus Christ (God the Son) we share the life of God. God gives us an example, in the Trinity, of the true love and happiness that exists in perfect unity. The more

we grow in the love of God, the more we draw others towards that unity that is part of who God is, then we begin to become who we were meant to be. Looking at ourself and others in love, we start to become aware of the image of God that lies at our deepest being. It becomes easier to relate to others and we begin to gain the peace that only God gives.

How do we do this? How do we move towards that unity, love, and happiness? Well first we have to have faith in the reality of God. I know this is hard, it is hard for all of us. Look at the Apostles in the Gospel seeing the resurrected Jesus - *they worshipped him ... but they doubted*. We have to realize that God can achieve the things we cannot - and the only way to full success is to allow God to work, and to participate in that action of God. As we grow in faith by personal prayer, and worshipping together and being touched by God at Mass, we can more easily live as a disciple of Jesus Christ and participate in God's action in the world. We heard in the first reading that God has given us statutes and commandments so that we may prosper ... they're not just things to keep God from getting mad - God has given them for our benefit. God, as Jesus Christ, took these commandments of old from God the Father and expanded them and applied them - and God the Holy Spirit began to teach us through the Church as Jesus promised. The earliest of these teachings are recorded in Scripture in the books that follow the Gospels, and this teaching has continued through the Church up to our day. As we act as Jesus taught us, we improve the condition of this world, and we lead others to join us in living as children of God.

When you are honest and don't lie, when you deal fairly with others and don't cheat or steal, when you stop yourself from gossiping and speaking badly about others, when you work to bring unity and peace to your family, when you struggle to control the urges for pleasures that (in the end) make you self centered and loving yourself over others, and when you spend time in prayer to grow closer in your relationship with God - you begin to move towards promoting the unity in which the love of God lives and flourishes. We should compare our level of unity we have with God and others to that perfect unity of the Trinity. The difference we find can encourage us to think of ways that we can more fully live out the baptism we received in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. As we work daily to conform our hearts to the loving commands of God, let us remember that Jesus is present in our Eucharist and in the persons of our brothers and sisters who remain in unity with him. You don't have to look in the refrigerator to find where you left God. Jesus - the second person of the Trinity - reminds us today: "*Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*"