

## June 16, 2019 - Three Mysteries of Catholic Faith!

### Mysteries of Catholic Faith

Sometimes, when meeting candidates to the sacrament of confirmation individually, I ask them: Can you give me three mysteries of our Catholic Faith? Answer: Silence. Follow-up question: Can you give me at least one Mystery of Catholic Faith? Answer: still silence!

What would be your answer?

I invite you to close your eyes and think for 10 seconds.

What comes to your mind?

If you remember the Solemnity we celebrate this weekend, does this give you one clue?

We always celebrate two great Solemnities right after Pentecost Sunday. While on the evening of Pentecost Sunday, we re-enter into Ordinary Time, and stay in Ordinary Time till the Solemnity of Christ the King (as we the enter in the Advent Season preceding Christmas Season), one can wonder why the priests are still vested in white on those two Sundays following Pentecost, the climax at the end of the 50 days of the Easter season (beginning on Easter Sunday). Those two Solemnities we celebrate are “The Most Holy Trinity” and “The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ”. Does this give you two clues?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 261) gives one answer: "*The Mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central Mystery of the Christian Faith and of Christian Life. God alone can mark it known to us by revealing himself as **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit***". This is what we celebrate on this current Sunday, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

There is another possible answer: **The Paschal Mystery**, which as defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (See Glossary) is “Christ’s work of **redemption** accomplished principally by **His passion, death, resurrection, and Glorious Ascension**, whereby "dying, He destroyed our death, rising He restored our life" (also para. 1067). The Paschal Mystery is celebrated and made present in the Liturgy of the Church, and its saving effects are communicated through the **Sacraments** (1076), especially the **Eucharist**,

which renews the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ as the Sacrifice offered by the Church (571, 1362-1372). The Paschal Mystery (Passion, Death, Resurrection and glorious Ascension of the Lord) is central to the Mass and the Eucharist. The Eucharistic celebration is the summit of the church’s liturgical celebrations. One fourth of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is entirely dedicated to “**The Celebration of the Christian Mystery**” also called the “**Mystery of Christ**”.

The Dictionary of Biblical Theology by **Xavier Leon-DuFour** indicates that the English word **Mystery** comes from “the Greek word, **Mysterion**, which is not found in the Greek Bible, except in a few late books. The background of this word is the Aramaic **Raz**, which means “**Secret Thing**”...” In the Old Testament, it can mean: Revelation of God’s secrets primarily concerned with the Plan of Salvation which God realizes in human history...” In the New Testament, the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) use the word **Mysterion** only once referring to the **Secret of the Kingdom of God**; in the Gospel of John, never. In the teaching of St Paul, **Mysterion** suggests a profound reality, inexpressible; it reveals a glimpse of the infinite. It denotes nothing else than the object of the Gospel: the realization of **Salvation by the Death and Resurrection of Christ**...Paul talks about “The unfolding of the mystery in time, and the **Mystery of Christ and the Church**”.

Bottom line: from the above one can see three key **Mysteries** of the **Catholic Faith**: 1- The Mystery of the Incarnation (God becoming Man, Christmas Season.) 2– The Pascal Mystery of Christ’s redemption (Easter Season, also the Mystery of the Eucharist). 3– Mystery of the Holy Trinity (one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), with the Holy Spirit being the love between the Father and the Son, as well as the Spirit of Jesus after He ascends into Heaven.

As we celebrate this weekend the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, we pray we will receive in our hearts the Holy Spirit, which is the grace of the love of God the Father and God the Son.

*One in Christ,  
Father Alain*