

My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

The angels and saints in heaven behold God, as we would say, “face-to-face,” that is, as He really is in Himself. True as that may be it does not imply that these blessed ones are able to completely understand the great reality which wholly engulfs them in His infinite beauty, holiness, goodness, and power. The God who is One, and is yet Three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is far beyond the grasp of any created mind’s ability to take it in. So it is that the angels and saints will be enthralled for all eternity, caught up in the ecstasy of beholding in evermore wonders, and this endlessly.

While it is true that we, here on earth, can know something of God through His creation, it is just as true that we can know nothing of His inner life. Only God Himself could give us some inkling of that, and this He did when the Son, entering our world to be our Savior, told us of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Saint John, in his First Letter, tells us that “God is Love” (4:8). Note carefully — he doesn’t write that God loves, but that God IS Love. God, then, is the source of all the loving which has existed in the universe since time began and before. The life of the Trinity is Love – a total outpouring of all that God is among the Three Persons. Each of the Persons utterly distinct from the Others, and yet completely One in possessing the Divine Nature.

Recall that the act of creation was an act of love. After all, God, perfectly happy in Himself, had no need of anything or anyone else; He simply wishes to share His happiness with those whom He would create. Because He foreknew that sin – the antithesis of love — would spoil the harmony of His creation, He had also provided for the renewal of creation by the coming of His Son among us. It is the love of the Father that sends the Son; it is the love of the Son to take on our human nature and become a new and faithful Adam, obedient even to death on the Cross; it is the love of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and the Son, to give life to the Church and holiness to all of us.

Each of us can rejoice in the fact of God’s love for us. Indeed, to all the words of Christ that He and the Father, and the Spirit who is One with Them, will come to abide in the souls of those who love Him, means that the beginning of heaven is within us. We really do carry our God about with us in our day-to-day living. To realize that Infinite Love wills to be so close to us ought to give rise to a firm resolution to be worthy of that Love and to reject any sinful action that could spoil this unsurpassed union with which we have been gifted. “God of Love,” help us to love in return!

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,

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