



Thoughts on the Journey

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It was the summer of 1987. We were visiting relatives in upstate New York. It was the first time they had the opportunity to see my daughter Jenna who was just 8 months old. At the same time, my younger brother Joe was living in Montreal in Quebec, Canada. Joe had not been home to Ohio since Jenna's birth, so I thought it would be a good idea to travel the 21/2 hours to visit him. I had never been to Montreal prior to this trip and was looking forward to the journey from Ticonderoga, New York where I was staying. On the map, it looked like a straight shot so I jotted a few directions on a piece of paper and off we went.

It was a beautiful trip along country roads and I enjoyed the journey as we passed through northern towns and villages. Several times I stopped to double-check my directions with locals who were only too happy to show me the way. Everything was going as planned until I arrived in Montreal. All the road signs were in French! The directions I initially had confidence in, were now obsolete. "I'll just stop and ask for help", I thought. When I stopped to seek help, the people I tried to communicate with spoke French and didn't seem too eager to help me. My relaxing excursion just became a web of unknown streets, unreadable signs, and no understanding of the French language. It now felt like I was driving with a bag over my head.

In 2021, people might wonder why I didn't call my brother on my cell phone. I did not have a cell phone in 1987. Why not use a GPS? There was no GPS in 1987. So what did I do? I prayed that God would put an English speaking person at a gas station who would be able to give me directions. How did that work for me? It took a couple of tries, but finally a truck of construction workers pulled in. Fortunately, one of the men spoke English and was happy to help.

Today, we have the amazing Global Positioning System (GPS). We get in our cars and rely on the constellation of satellites and their ground stations that help us navigate from point 'A' to point 'B' from

almost anywhere in the world. The little voice inside our device calmly directs us along the way. When we make a mistake, it redirects us.

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. Jesus knew, when he would no longer be with his disciples on earth, they would need help carrying out the mission of salvation. They would need an Advocate that could be everywhere at once, speaking in any language they would need to speak and understand, and to be the divine strength that would help them navigate their way through controversy, persecution, and their own suffering and death because of their belief in Jesus. Before leaving his disciples Jesus said to them,

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus invites us to the Trinitarian life where the Father, Son, and Spirit make their dwelling within us: God's life and love united in ours. Granted, the Trinity is a difficult mystery, but Jesus is more interested in our Trinitarian participation rather than our understanding of the mystery. When we cooperate with the grace of the Trinity, the Spirit will lead us to a holier life, will re-direct us when we are headed in the wrong direction, will tune our ear to the Father's will, will teach us to live for Christ and will lead us on our journey back to the Father. You could say that the Trinity is God's GPS (God's Perfect System).

The Trinity is on and available to us 24/7. The only time it fails is when we fail to listen to the truth they reveal to us. The Trinity works flawlessly when we put our trust in it's guidance. The Triune God will show us the way to our ultimate destination - life eternal.

Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we are reminded of this profound gift of love from the always accessible God who never abandons us on the journey. Keep God's GPS on at all times so you don't lose your way!