



June 7, 2020 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

The celebration of the Solemnity of the Trinity is an invitation to enter into the Mystery of God. The nature of his being consubstantial with the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches an explanation on The Dogma of the Holy Trinity.

253 *The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the "consubstantial Trinity".⁸³ The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire: "The Father is that which the Son is, the Son that which the Father is, the Father and the Son that which the Holy Spirit is, i.e. by nature one God."⁸⁴ In the words of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), "Each of the persons is that supreme reality, viz., the divine substance, essence or nature."⁸⁵*

254 *The divine persons are really distinct from one another. "God is one but not solitary."⁸⁶ "Father", "Son", "Holy Spirit" are not simply names designating modalities of the divine being, for they are really distinct from one another: "He is not the Father who is the Son, nor is the Son he who is the Father, nor is the Holy Spirit he who is the Father or the Son."⁸⁷ They are distinct from one another in their relations of origin: "It is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds."⁸⁸ The divine Unity is Triune.*

255 *The divine persons are relative to one another. Because it does not divide the divine unity, the real distinction of the persons from one another resides solely in the relationships which relate them to one another: "In the relational names of the persons the Father is related to the Son, the Son to the Father, and the Holy Spirit to both. While they are called three persons in view of their relations, we believe in one nature or substance."⁸⁹ Indeed "everything (in them) is one where there is no opposition of relationship."⁹⁰ "Because of that unity the Father is wholly in the Son and wholly in the Holy Spirit; the Son is wholly in the Father and wholly in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is wholly in the Father and wholly in the Son."⁹¹*

In "The Shack", a bestselling novel and movie adaptation by William Paul Young, attempts to personify the Trinity. God the Father, referred to as "Papa," is portrayed as a jolly African American woman named Abba, who can cook delicious meals while attending to the affairs of all creation. Jesus is a carpenter who looks like a Middle Eastern version of Omar Sharif from "Lawrence of Arabia." The Holy Spirit, a hippie Asian woman named Sarayu, tends a garden and flits in and out of scenes at will. The Shack leads readers to think about how a Trinitarian God relates to humanity, although in ways you may find it silly or inferior. The encounters Mack with the three persons in the novel, each give a glimpse into the character and purpose of their being. In Chapter 10 and I quote a conversation with Jesus, about love of the trinity. "Genuine relationships are marked by submission... That's the beauty you see in the relationship with Abba and Sarayu. We are indeed submitted to one another and have always been so always will be. Papa is as much submitted to me as I to him, or Sarayu to me, or Papa to her. Submission is not about authority and not obedience; it's about relationships of love and respect. In fact, we are submitted to you in the same way." We are created to be one also with the Trinity and they exist for our benefit.

The story The Shack can be a fruitful meditation on the mystery of God. We can't ignore creation to experience God. We enter into creation and find the divine as its inner perception in the objects of creation. We were made in the image and likeness of God. We receive his life at our baptism. The intimate life of God, the Trinity, exists in the core value of our lives. We need to find time and make time, to seek out the mystery of God within us. We need to make time to pray every day. We need to make time to be with Him, every day. We need to make time to experience God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We need to experience God in the wonders of his creation and in the wonders of who we are in his image and likeness. Jesus Christ the savior who came and died for our sins, and the Holy Spirit who fills us with Gods' gifts.