

Scripture Reflection by Fr. Dave Feast - The Most Holy Trinity -

Some time ago I read an article in "The Priest" magazine about The Most Holy Trinity. The article began with the question to the readers: "Do I believe in God?" And most people would answer without hesitating "Yes!" Intellectually most people do believe in God. The problem arises when we try to move beyond "head" or intellectual knowledge to whether our thoughts, lifestyle and particular behaviors reveal this belief.

In that same article, a story is told of a Confirmation Class at which a Bishop Richard Higgins, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for Military Services, was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In his homily he quizzed the young confirmands about their cell phone usage. When he asked how many minutes they spoke on their phones, most just said, "a lot." He told the congregation that, when he asked the question at another Confirmation, a young lady responded that she talked on the phone over 5,000 minutes a month. This is about three and one half days per month spent on a phone.

The bishop continued – "Whom do we talk to the most on our cell phones? " And their response was "Our friends." Once more the bishop posed a question: "And why do we talk to our friends?" The response – "To get to know them better," or "to find out what they are doing," or "to tell them about the stuff in our own lives" were among the answers.

I've used a similar analogy – dating. To get to know the person better before we marry them, we try to spend as much time with them either in person or on the phone. There would be no healthy relationship if we only spoke with or visited our friends if we only stopped by once or twice a week and for only a few minutes each time.

To get to know God, we need to spend time with Him – doing the same things we do with other people around us – to get to know Him better, to find out what He is doing in my life and what He expects of me, and to tell Him about the stuff in our own lives.

This week the Universal Church is celebrating the Solemnity of Trinity Sunday – a mystery, for sure, and a mystery that many have tried to explain through the ages to help us better understand it. Church art has tried to explain the Triune God-head by a triangle, or three interlocking circles. St. Patrick utilized the three-leaf shamrock.

Because God has been and should be a big part of our lives, we should ponder the mystery of God so as to understand God a little better, to be in awe, and to celebrate more profoundly the God Whom we worship, love, listen to, desire to be with, and try to be like.

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is a basic doctrine of Faith in Christianity, understandable not with our heads but with our hearts. The doctrine teaches that there are in One God Three distinct and equal Divine Persons sharing the same Divine Nature. Our mind cannot grasp this concept which teaches that $1+1+1=1$ (and not 3). But we believe in this mystery because Jesus Who is God taught

it clearly, the evangelists recorded it, the Fathers of the Church believed and tried to explain it and the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, guided by the Holy Spirit, defined it as a dogma of Christian life.

All our prayers in the Church begin in the name of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). All Sacraments are administered in the Name of the Holy Trinity. We bless ourselves, and the priest blesses us, in the Name of the Holy Trinity.

Today's Solemnity reminds us to respect ourselves and others because everyone is the temple of the Holy Spirit where all the three Persons of the Holy Trinity abide. Let us have the firm conviction that the Trinitarian God abides in us and that He is the source of our hope, courage, and strength and is our final destination. Just as the Trinity is a relationship of love and unity, let us practice that same love and unity in our relationships with family, fellow students, fellow workers, and with all people.



This weekend in these United States, we are also celebrating and remembering all those American women and men who have died in military service throughout our history. Tomorrow, Monday, is Memorial Day. There will be prayer services in cemeteries and churches, the annual five-hundred mile car race and many picnics and celebrations of

life (as well as the unofficial kick-off of Summer). We tend to forget what we are remembering on a day like this. We have been involved in so many wars and so many have died defending and protecting our Freedom. There are the "Unknown" Soldiers, the Missing, those lost at sea, as well as those who died so far from their homes, such as at Normandy, that few receive visits or remembering at all. They all gave their lives so that others might live. They gave all they had so that we, the living, might have more. We move toward the Eucharist to celebrate them within the celebration of Him Who died so that we might have life, have it to the full and for eternity. So very much to remember that it surpasses our personal limited abilities. This is why we gather together with those limitations of remembering to give perfect thanks through the perfect Thank You of Jesus which we remember every day. To our Men and Women in Uniform who have given the ultimate sacrifice – we thank you, and ask God's Peace to be with you.

Scripture Reflection by Father Rody

TRINITY SUNDAY...MT. 28, 16-20

Way back my theology days, the subject Holy Trinity is one of the subjects which has few written books unlike Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary etc. In fact, Holy Trinity was presented to us in two ways...way #1 the Holy Trinity is not...way #2 the Holy Trinity is.

THE HOLY TRINITY IS NOT

1. MONARCHIANISM (mono=one & archein=to rule) this states that God as one indivisible being...thus, there is only one person in one God who rules and not three persons.

THE HOLY TRINITY IS

1. Church answer: TRINITARIANISM states that there is only one God and three in persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who are co-eternal, co-equal and one in nature.

Our faith as detailed by our Magisterium states that there is only one God and this has been revealed to us in three persons as FATHER=Creator, SON=Savior and HOLY SPIRIT=Sanctifier. As persons doing something for the economy of salvation, their existence depends on the kind of their work. Their chronological existence furthermore should not be interpreted as something 'Father telling the two (Son and Holy Spirit) you were not around yet when I created the world.' ***That is a big big no!*** When the Father was creating the world, the Son and Holy Spirit were in existent already with the Father as God.

Lastly by way of illustration, let us look at the sun and ask, 'Can the sun present

itself in varied ways?' Yes in many ways the sun can do that...for examples; sun

presenting itself as light (from sunrise to sunset), as heat (we feel it), as energy (solar energy), as radiation (that's why we experience sunburn). These examples have their own distinct way/form of existence but they come from one and the same sun.

The different persons of the Holy Trinity does not state variety in nature/dignity. They merely presented to us the function they did, still doing and will continue doing. We remember the prayer of Jesus at ***John 17, 22*** '*And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*'

