

Homily **Holy Trinity** - Year C (16.6.19)

When we were younger, long before we were taught the traditional prayers, like the 'Our Father' and the 'Hail Mary', we were probably introduced in a very simple and yet incredibly profound way to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That's when our parents or our grandparents taught us how to do the sign of the cross. It's sometimes sad to see how overfamiliarity with the sign of the cross can result in sort of awkward gestures as we come into church having blessed ourselves in the font. But when we do bless ourselves in the font in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, of our entry into God's family.

You know, our prayers, our praise, our rituals, our religious paintings and many of our symbols abound with our belief in the Holy Trinity. The sign of the cross is one, but the Gloria in our mass praises the Trinity. The creed is a statement of our belief in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our sacraments are celebrated in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And our prayers in our mass are all made to the Father, through the Son in the Holy Spirit.

And the great prayer of the mass, the Eucharistic prayer ends with what we call the final doxology, is addressed to the Trinity, through him and with him and in him, referring to Jesus or God Almighty Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours for ever and ever. No wonder that we sing this. If we sang only one thing in the mass, it should be our response to that Eucharistic prayer, the great 'Amen'. So, do notice during mass how

many times in our prayers the three persons of the Trinity are mentioned. Our prayers so often express our belief, yet our prayers can simply fall from our lips without much thought.

So today, we do celebrate the God whom we worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God. The Son is not the Father and he is not the Spirit and the Spirit is not the Father. Yet, there is only one God. Did any of you find that helpful? I doubt it.

I hear, when we talk about the mysteries in the church, many of the older people perhaps, well, maybe not just the older people would say we're Catholics for goodness sake. We are used to mysteries. The mystery of the resurrection, mystery of the assumption, the ascension, the mystery of where the collection goes on a Sunday.

[Laughter]

They're all part of our religion. Unfortunately, perhaps the first thing we learned about the blessed Trinity from probably our teachers was that it is a mystery and that we are not able to understand it. And there is some truth in this, and we need to recognise that.

But if we are to remain Catholics and Christians, we must continue to accept that God has chosen to reveal himself to us as three persons in one God. And why did God choose to do this? Is he out to deliberately confuse us?

Well, it may very well confuse us. But surely, our fundamental belief is that our God is a God of love. And so, perhaps like any of the lover, he wishes to share his inner self, who he is with the people he loves, even if we cannot fully grasp it.

You know, our religion is poorly presented and lived if we think that it is only about a matter of doctrinal statements of performing certain rituals, of behaving in certain ways. And this is why this great feast of the Trinity reminds us and brings us back to the facts, that the essence of our Christianity is the essence of the Trinity. It is about relationships. And all we may remember about the Trinity is that there are three persons in one God. But even knowing that, should not just to recognise that God is not some solitary, lonely being living in splendid isolation, but lives a life of relationship, a family, family love.

Today's feast then for me at least is a celebration of the mystery of God as a family, but as a family in which we are welcomed into. God's plan seems to be that we share his life of love, for God's love can do nothing but overflow. It reaches out into creation. And it reaches out to those he loves most, his people. This revelation of God as three persons in a life of love in which we share through our baptism is one of God's greatest gifts to us. And it's not only because he lets us know the truth about God, but it also lets us know the truth about ourselves, our origin, and our destiny and how we attain that goal.