

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 2006/B

Every Sunday, when professing our faith, we say: "We believe in one God..." But who is this God? What is the representation we have about him? How do we imagine him look? Is he a remote God who does not care about the life of human beings on earth and their problems? Or is he a lonely God exiled in his highly Heavens without any contact with people on earth?

All the readings of today invite us to meditate on the mystery of God and his inner life as deity. In strong words and with powerful expression, through the reflection of Moses before the people of Israel, the 1st reading reveals us who this God is in whom we believe. The questions of Moses to people are simple, but decisive: Since the world exists, have you ever seen or heard God speaking as you did and lived? Have you have seen or heard a god who has chosen for himself a nation and did marvelous things in order to come to the help of his people?

Behind all these questions, there is a truth, namely that God is fundamentally a relational, a communicative and loving God. God lives in relationship and not in loneliness. He is not wrapped in his divinity and hiding in his heavens. Our God is a God who communicates with human beings; he lets himself be approached and touched as he did with Abraham, Moses and the prophets throughout the history of salvation. He acts with love like a father or a mother, always looking for the good of his beloved ones. He is close to us and interested in our problems. He has a heart to be moved to pity and ears to listen to human cry. He is a compassionate, a forgiving and a loving God.

Another truth is that the gods of other religions, whatever they may be and how extended they may be in the world, cannot be compared to our God, who is personal, friendly and protector of his own. The gods of other religions can only deceive and mislead; they promise happiness and freedom, but throw people into slavery and misery. To recognize and honor the uniqueness of our God is to respect and keep his commandments. Such a respect of God's statutes and commandments draws his blessing and graces on those who believe in him.

The experience of the uniqueness of God's love and communication to the world has attained its paroxysms in Jesus Christ. In fact, in his acts and words, Jesus has revealed God as a Father who loves us. Jesus can reveal the Father only because he knows him and is very close to him. That is the reason why Jesus says repeatedly, *the Father and I are one... The words I talk to you are not mine, but from my Father... Whoever sees me, sees the Father... You have faith in God; have faith also in me*, etc.

Such words show that there is an intimate relationship between Jesus and his Father. Furthermore, before going to his Father, Jesus promises his disciples that he will not leave them orphans, that we will send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will remind them everything he taught. The role of the Holy Spirit, then, is to remind us and to confirm that we are sons and daughters of God, called to have the same inheritance with Jesus Christ. As St Paul says: *"The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and join heirs with Christ"*. That is the reason why those who share in the suffering of Christ, that is his followers, will have the same glory with him. That is also why the Holy Spirit urges us to cry to God and call him joyfully and trustfully Daddy, Father.

All these illustrations show clearly that God in his innermost deity is not a lonely person, but a relational being. He reveals himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three are but one God, in different manifestations in their relationship to the world. All three are equal and one God. The unity in the innermost deity makes understand why when giving the mission to his disciples to teach the Good News of Kingdom to the whole world, Jesus tells them to *“baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*. Baptism in the name of the Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, would have no sense, if there were no equality and unity in God himself. It is because the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are one that Jesus can ask the disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity.

The Trinity is the family of God where God’s love overflows outside the Godhead and reaches out to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God in his family, the Trinity, leads a life of perfect harmony, full integration, continual dialogue and understanding. The divine persons live in communion, mutual relationship and interdependence. Without being confused with one another, they are united by a same momentum of action and deeds. Between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit exists a strong relationship of reciprocity, equality and interaction.

Such an understanding of God has some consequences for our Christian life. If God in himself lives a life of communion, mutuality and interdependence, it means that, in order to be faithful to him, we must implement in our own lives true relationships where we can count on one another, respect each other and love each other as brothers and sisters. How can we celebrate the feast of the Trinity without asking forgiveness for our negligence of true relationships that build us as Christian community? This is why the Trinity is challenging us any time we engage ourselves in conflicts of interest that destroy our brotherhood and sisterhood.

If God is relation and communion, Christians everywhere must look for unity. It is not that kind of unity that strives to kill the charismas of others or tries to reduce everybody to the same level of thinking, but that is respectful of the diversity, knowing that God has created us different so that we might enrich each another. In other words, although we are culturally, intellectually and sociologically different, we are one people, the people of God. Our differences cannot be an obstacle to be or work together as a community.

The Trinity as God’s family is an invitation that our own families live the values of mutual respect, reciprocal love and interdependence. Let us ask the Lord to help us live according to the image of the Holy Trinity in communion of heart and mind with one another. May God bless you all!



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