

## **Feast of the Holy Trinity A/2014**

All the readings of this Solemnity of the Holy Trinity talk about the mystery of the godhead as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They invite us to confess the One God as he has revealed himself in history through the Father who has created the world, the Son who has redeemed the world, and the Holy Spirit who keeps the Church ongoing over the times.

The first reading of the book of Exodus described what happened to the people of Israel when God visited them after they had rebelled against him by adoring a golden calf. It shows that, instead of punishing them for their infidelity, God pardoned their wickedness and sins. It equally shows how God introduced himself to them as a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.

What is behind this text is the idea that God is merciful and forgiving. Whatever might be the sin of his people, he is always ready to forgive and to offer a new chance so that they do better in the future. Another idea is that the intercession of the just man touches God's heart to the point of provoking his mercy.

This text allows us to understand the importance of today's Gospel as Jesus is talking about the love of God that pushed him to send his son into the world in order to save it from perdition.

First all, the Gospel starts with Jesus' statement saying that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that whoever believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.

Then, he says that God did not send his son to condemn the world, but rather in order to save it through him. Finally, Jesus says that whoever believes in him is not condemned, while the one who does not believe is already condemned.

What do we learn from these readings? Today I want to talk about the meaning of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. In fact, in ordinary life and according to what has been taught us in schools and through the rules of mathematics, one plus one equals two and one three times equals three.

It is on this simple rule of mathematics that human logic is built and justifiable. As right as it might be, however, human logic does not correspond to divine logic, which obeys other criteria than those we usually use in order to judge and appreciate things. It is that divine logic that is behind the mystery we celebrate today and we call Holy Trinity.

The Holy Trinity is the confession of the nature of God as one, but in three persons. It is the unity of the divine persons as they have revealed themselves to us as one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is that confession of faith in one God we regularly repeat anytime we make the sign of the cross or we baptize people in the sacrament of Baptism.

If I could refer to the analogy of a human family in which there is a father, a mother and the children, but still forms one family, I would say that the Trinity is the family of God where the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, though three distinct persons, form just one God.

Because those three divine persons form one God, they share a same nature and interact in their actions in such a way that they are equal and interdependent without being reduced to one another or confused with one another.

How do we come to the profession of faith in one God in three persons? We come to this confession by contemplating the unfolding of salvation history. In fact, when we look at the history of salvation, we realize that God has revealed himself over time through history as the Father who has created the world and everything in it, as the Son who died on the cross for the salvation of the world, and as the Holy Spirit who sustains the world in life.

Moreover, through this unfolding of history, we realize that God is fundamentally love. It is love that brought him to create the world. That love has attained its climax in the sending of Jesus in the world so that he might be our savior. His love shows that God is really a Father, who has a big heart to love and forgive. In that sense, God is not any Father, but a Father who has a Son he sent into the world. Jesus is not any son, but a Son who leaves us his Spirit to guide us until the end of the world.

As understood, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live in unity and strong relationship with one another. Though they are distinct from one another, they are just one God. Though they differ from one another in their action in the world, they are, however, equal.

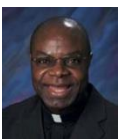
What are the consequences to draw from such an understanding of the Holy Trinity? First of all, there is the problem of the love of God for us. In fact, the Father loves us. That is why he has created us. Jesus loves us. That is why he became a human being and gave his life on the cross for our salvation. The Holy Spirit loves us. That is why he intercedes for us.

Because God loves us, we have to love him in turn and to love one another at his example. But, how can we show our love of God if we do not care about his commandments and do not love one another as he recommends us?

Second. There is the problem of relationship. There exists between the persons of the Trinity a strong relationship of communion and unity that makes that the Father is in the Son and the Holy Spirit and vice versa. Jesus wants that we live in that relationship so that he dwells in us as the Father and the Holy Spirit dwell in him. But, how can we live in that relationship if we do not make ourselves the temple of God? How can we dwell in that relationship with God when we neglect to build it around us and in particular with our own members of family?

As this week is dedicated to our fathers who gave us life, let us ask God to bless them abundantly. To those who are dead, may he give them peace and to those who are still alive may he give his wisdom so that they fulfill the duty he has give them according to his will. May God bless you all!

**Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-5; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; John 3: 16-18**



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