

Trinity Sunday 2008

John 3:16-18

Trinity Sunday.

Today is a big day because of a *big* reality: the *Trinity*,
a reality with which the Church wrestled for some time.

The Trinity *per se* is not always very clear in the Scriptures.

And you may have realized that today's Gospel is not explicitly about the Trinity.

It is about the salvific mission of the Son.

Ahh: it is about Jesus who reveals the Trinity.

Had the Son not become human, we would not know that

- God is Triune.
- in God, there are three Persons.

If you stop to think about it, you cannot help but find it truly bizarre.

Monotheism seems to make sense.

But, *Trinity*?

We often take it for granted—when we take it.

We often do not really go near it: “Yeah, yeah, whatever; just get in the car.”

Trinity would seem to destroy the *unity*, the oneness of God.

As bizarre as it may seem,

Christians (that means *us!*) believe that God has revealed Who He is:

Three Persons.....*One* Being.

Who is this Trinity?

Who are these Three Divine Persons?

Hmmm.

Do not try to imagine It or Them!

You will either imagine:

1. Three separate Beings (the three musketeers, the three stooges...): WRONG!!
or
2. One Being with multiple (three!) personality disorder: WRONG!!

We cannot but imagine either, for, in the human realm: one being-one person.

Do *not* imagine.

Rather: approach in and with faith.

We believe (and thus cannot prove) that God has revealed Himself to be

One luminous, loving Being in whom there is a procession of Persons

- One forever coming forth from another
 - A Third forever coming forth from these Two
- and all Three are perfectly one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

This Trinity is a personal mystery for us.

Approaching in and with living faith implies

letting go and letting ourselves be embraced.

Today is a big day and a big invitation to *be embraced by*

- God
- *all* of God—which does not make it a group hug!

Indeed,

we come to Church not because someone has told us that we are obliged.

we come to Church

- to be loved
- to be embraced

by a Trinity of Divine Persons (talk about an embrace!)

God *revealing* Himself is God *opening* and *sharing* Himself.

If such is true, then we must ask ourselves,

“Do I go to church to fall more in love with ‘the Three’?”

“Do I go to church to fall more in love with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit?”

The challenge for us is indeed that of discovering how *real* the Trinity is.

The Trinity can sound rather lofty and *unreal*.

For us to discover the realness, the reality of the Trinity

- we must know that we are talking about *Persons*—divine but nonetheless
- we must go beyond utilitarian thinking.

The Trinity is not useful *per se*.

God is not useful because God is not to be *used*, not meant to be used.

God is meant to be

- beheld with faith
- held with hope
- loved

And so the Trinity will generally not be “useful” and help us *directly* to

- cook dinner
- fix a flat tire
- pay our bills
- understand our significant other

But the Trinity will and does accompany us

as we cook and fix and pay and seek to understand.

And the Trinity, through everything in our life, draws us home, i.e. to Itself.

“The Three” are tight!

They are a “package deal” of light and love, and are ever-active, ever at work in us,
happy to make their home in us, and happy to make our home in Them.

There is a certain order in God, and there is a certain order regarding God in us:
the Holy Spirit leads us to the Son, with Whom He leads us to the Father.

But we are to be very free in addressing Them.

We are invited to a relationship that makes us children of God.

Children are playful and trusting and free...

Allow me to close with an excerpt from a prayer composed by Elizabeth *of the Trinity*, a Carmelite nun, a contemporary of Therese – although in a different Carmel (Dijon, France) – who died in 1906, at the age of 26:

"O my God, Trinity Whom I adore, help me to become utterly forgetful of self, that I may establish myself in You, as changeless and as calm as though my soul were already in eternity. May nothing disturb my peace nor draw me forth from You, O my immutable Lord, may I penetrate more deeply every moment into the depths of Your Mystery. Give peace to my soul: make it Your heaven, Your cherished dwelling place, Your home of rest. Let me never leave You there alone, but keep me there absorbed in You in living faith, adoring You.

O my Three, my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in which I lose myself, I yield myself to You as Your child. Immerse Yourself in me, that I may be immersed in You until I depart to contemplate in Your light the abyss of Your greatness. Amen."