

Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, Cycle A.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the love of the Father, which come to us through the grace of the Son, in union through the Holy Spirit.

God is our creator and we are the creatures that he made. Our ability to comprehend reality and conceptualize it is vastly inferior to God. The creature will never be able to fully understand the creator like your dog or cat is incapable of fully understanding you, like why are you not spending as much time at home like during the covid era

The Trinity is a mystery to us because we cannot fully understand it although we have glimpses of it. The secular notion of mystery is a puzzle to be solved. The Christian notion of mystery is something we know a lot about, but there is so much more we do not understand. Our knowledge of the visible universe is a mystery. We know a lot about our solar system, stars and the galaxies, but systems like black holes, which absorb matter is beyond our comprehension. Physics says matter cannot be created or destroyed. Our minds cannot even conceive how large is the universe. Light travel at 186,000 miles a second, it can travel around the earth approximately seven and a half times in a second.

In one year, light travels 5.9 trillion miles, or 5.9 million, millions miles. To cross the visible universe travelling at the speed of light, it will not take one year, not a thousand years, but 93 billion years.

We have to live with the tension knowing yet at the same time, not knowing everything about God. If not, we shall create a false image of God based on our desires. The Golden Calf was a projection the desires of a society dominated by old males.

The god they created was a young bull that symbolized youth, strength and virility which old men desire.

In the first reading, God pardons the wickedness and stupidity of the people of Israel. God is a kind and merciful. As we mature in our faith, our image of God ought to change from the kind grandfather, who is also the great puppeteer, or to the policeman or the strict judge and finally to kind and loving presence revealed to us in the Word made flesh, Jesus.

Seven blind men went to a Zoo to experience an elephant. They formed a line and the zookeeper brought a tame elephant to them. The first touched the trunk and declared: An elephant is like a large fire hose; the second touched the tusk and thought that an elephant is like a large spear. The next one touched the ear and was sure that an elephant was like a foam pad. The one who touched the leg believed that elephant was like a tree trunk. The ones who touched the belly, the side and the tail deduced that an elephant was like the bottom of a boat, a padded wall and a piece of rope respectively. The story tells us that although each had a genuine experience of is the elephant, yet the elephant was still greater that the sum of their experiences. Likewise many people have had genuine experiences of God, but God is still greater the sum of all those experiences.

We can only explain mystery through symbols and analogy. The scriptures tell us that God is love and that God is one. According the St. Augustine, although God is one, because God is love, God cannot be solitary. Love always goes out of itself.

As the love of the Father pours out it he begets the Son. The Son returns this love to the Father. There is a circular flow of love from the Father to the Son and the Son to the Father. This flow of love is the Holy Spirit. Where there is perfect love there is perfect unity.

The more technical definition of the Trinity , as opposed to three person and one God, is one substance/essence with three distinctly separate individualizations. Water or H₂O can be liquid, steam or ice.

The smallest piece of gold is an atom of gold. The atom is made up of protons, neutrons, electrons and other tiny particles. A powerful bond holds these components together, which is almost unbreakable. Oneness is not necessarily singular. **If you remove any particle from an atom, its essence will change.** The family is the closest analogy to the Trinity. What makes a family one? The answer is an unbreakable bond of love. The members must be willing to make sacrifices for each other. They must be willing to die for each other. The family unity has to be more important than the needs of its **individual** members.

The Trinity is a community of love. Since God is communal we need to develop communal love. True love cannot be isolated, guarded, or detached. To love we have to be totally open to the other and therefore vulnerable to the other. There must be loving relationships in our lives. The hermetic life is the exception.

God so loved the world that he gave us (all peoples) his beloved Son as gift and sacrifice for our salvation. To carry out the plan of salvation, to unite us to himself, the Father had to allow Jesus to die (to be willing to make a sacrifice). Jesus had to have absolute trust in the Father to say: "Not my will, but yours be done", in spite of his fear which caused him to sweat blood. (He had to be prepared to die for the new members) The Father and the Son did all this, because they love us and wants us to be part of them (the unity of ourselves to them was the priority). Are we prepared to be open to others, to trust others, to make the necessary sacrifices, and to offer peace and reconciliation to enter into communal love, the life of the Trinity?

A young man went to see a monk and complained that he is being torn apart by the current situation regarding police brutality, part of him is filled with anger and fury at the police that urges him towards violence, and part of him wants justice and peace. The monk told him that he had two wolves within him that are fighting each other. The young man asked which one will win? The monk said the one you feed the most. Are you feeding the anger or the peace?