

The Most Holy Trinity
June 12, 2022
“The Understanding of Faith”

Pro 8:22-31
Rom 5:1-5
Jn 16:12-15

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

So much of life is a struggle to understand. Children are struggling with understanding when they ask all those questions that children have always asked. Teens have difficulty understanding why their parents impose rules of behavior, curfews, and limits regarding some activities. As adults, many things escape our understanding – even though we might be educated, well-read, and very experienced.

Certainly, one of the most difficult things to understand is the human heart and soul. Why some people do things that cause such great harm to others is beyond understanding. Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine – the lies and cover-ups in our political world – that some will do anything, if the price is right – all these things can boggle the mind of a thinking person!

I mention this, because today is Trinity Sunday. Today we celebrate the totality of God that is beyond our understanding. How there can be one God – but three, separate, divine persons – in that same one God – has baffled the greatest Christian minds for 20 centuries.

The Catholic Church, founded by Jesus through the 12 Apostles, has always believed in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And the scriptures for this Sunday give us insight into how the community of believers came to their conclusions about the Godhead.

The Book of Proverbs reveals that Wisdom is eternal. Wisdom, as a personal being, was, somehow, present to God before creation began! That Wisdom was the craftsman who carried out the design of the creative Father and fashioned the world. Furthermore, Wisdom thoroughly enjoyed all of its creative activity.

Many theologians have concluded that Wisdom is also the Word of God. It is the expression of all that God wishes to communicate. And that Wisdom – that Word of God – took on our humanity in the person of Jesus. Furthermore, Jesus revealed that he was the Son of the Father – the Father who is the divine Creator – the Designer of all things!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples that they can't possibly understand all that he wants to convey to them. Nevertheless, he and the Father will send them the Spirit of God – the Spirit of truth – the Holy Spirit.

That Spirit will make understandable so much that would, otherwise, escape them! Moreover, that Spirit would enliven their faith – It would help them accept those things which remain shrouded in mystery.

St. Paul addresses this faith in the passage from the Letter to the Romans. We are justified – we are saved by faith. But this faith is not a mere blind belief – Nor is it a pseudo hope in a salvation without conversion and repentance. True faith is a relationship with God and Jesus that brings great peace of heart and soul. That peace comes because we try to live the Gospel of Jesus – We truly endeavor to implement that Gospel in everything we do!

Furthermore, Paul tells us, the true Christian disciple can, actually, boast about what they suffer. Why? Because the Holy Spirit helps us: endure our afflictions, strengthen the character of our soul – and maintain a steadfast hope. And this is the hope that will carry us into an eternal life with God!

Brothers and Sisters, so much of life is clothed in mystery. Some things will be explained, eventually, by science and its discoveries.

But the great mysteries, the mysteries of God –
– the Trinity of three Divine Persons in One God –
– the activities of each Divine Person –
– the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ –
all these will escape us, at least in this life!

Finally, someone once said: “With faith, no understanding of mystery is necessary – However, without faith, no understanding of mystery is possible!”

So, let us pray, today, that our faith in the Godhead will never waver or falter – And may the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit always live within us!

Amen.

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Msgr. Russell G. Terra