

Homily St Pius & St Anthony Trinity Sunday Year C

Jesus tells us, "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth..." (John 16:12-13). It is as if He is saying, "There is a lot more that I could pour on you, but **you do not need it now**. But the Spirit follows me and He will lead/guide you into the full understanding of truth." Anything Jesus has said, that we scratch our heads over, then the Spirit can lead us to understand later (*like 'I'll explain it later to you!'*) And most of all, such a central part of our Faith is what we need to have revealed to us: God's own full identity-the question answered of who God is! The way I hear today's gospel, Jesus says that the Spirit teaches us truths of faith on a '**need to know**' basis. The Truth is all there in Jesus words, but we need time to process it so that we comprehend its meaning more fully over time. I suggest that is why we do not know about the identity of the Trinity until Jesus comes along. Our Jewish brothers and sisters did just fine worshipping the Father Yahweh from the time of Abraham through most all of the Old Testament, being content to hear Moses and the prophets calling them to faith in Father, until the time of Jesus' birth. With Jesus, the more intimate invitation of God is offered to us to draw even closer to God's Own Self in the New Covenant, as Jesus enters into our human nature, to reveal the possibility of even more faithful living together, **even within us** through Baptism. After Jesus reveals it to us, then by the Spirit and our baptism, we can hear God continuing to teach us not only from out here somewhere, but even feel from within our own souls, the power of the Holy Spirit resonating in us. None of this deeper relationship to God could happen had Jesus not revealed it and invited us in!

When Jesus says the Spirit will come later and reveal further God's Truth, or lead us into deeper understanding, I think that is like examples we've been through all the time, when we have or hold something that is capable of so many more uses than we can activate at once. For example, think of almost any electronic device you have that has way more functionality than we may ever utilize. How many times have we said, "Oh, it can do that, too." Or have we heard, "There is a feature (or app) in settings for that need." We have it, we hold it, but we don't fully utilize it- there's more to come later. Give it time, the rest will be made clear, and opportunities will arise to engage more fully (use) what we have

been given. That is like the Spirit Jesus says will come later to open more fully the words He has revealed to us. Or to use another example, I can think of when I was a kid my older brother had the neatest knife in the world. It was a 'Rambo Survival Knife'. A bowie-type of knife, that had way uses, than a person would probably ever use (unless you truly were on Survivor Island). The knife had a hollowed out handle and had so many extras packed inside. Yes, we might be hiking on our grandparent's farm, but a simple blade is all we might have needed. But in case we wandered 200 miles away from the farm, his knife had all kind of parts. The back of it had a huge serrated blade, a bottle opener on the hilt, a compass on a removable end cap, which opened to reveal more things like a cable wire saw inside, fish hooks and string, and wax covered matches tucked inside the handle. So much more than we needed. Also thinking of 'loaded down' knives, how about Swiss Army knives (they have a Regular blade, a screwdriver--flat & philips, scissors, corkscrew, a little fork/spoon, maybe even a lock pick & rake and what else). I had a friend in seminary who spent a semester studying in Rome. He got so mad at his first audience with the Pope, when his Swiss Army Knife (& this is pre 9-11 days) was confiscated- he might only have used fingernail clipper part, but there were so many sharp points on all those other features-But I told him more likely it was the Swiss Part that lost it for him-The Swiss Guard said 'that is ours'!) But again, he was holding more there than was understood or used by him. Again, I think of the Spirit that way; The Spirit over time is who leads us into the fullness of truth in stages and at the time it is needed. He shows us what we need and supplies what is required for us to be disciples when the time comes, and not before.

So especially about such a central Faith-Truth like God's Identity as a Perfect Trinity of Divine Persons, it takes Jesus to start such a revelation and the Spirit to follow up over time to further reveal and make clear the fullness of its meaning or application. No human mind comes up with such a concept of divine persons/divine relations within the Godhead. In fact we might have wanted it to make more sense as a balanced Quaternity-like the even number of four directions (NSEW), or the four dimensions of space-time. But No, Jesus reveals God as three persons (odd number of 3-Father, Son Spirit). And the Spirit confirms and teaches us further the workings and inner dynamics of God' relating within Himself, yet for us most especially how He wishes to relate to human beings. This is the real marvel of the Trinity to me: That as Three, God is open to us, (3 begs a

4th to join). The Trinity as a perfect, mutually sharing, and reciprocating community of persons-call it a communion of love, that is God. (What does letter of John say so many times over, "God is Love" 1 John 4:7-21). With Jesus' Trinity talk, He is revealing to us that God wants to be in relationship (personal-relationship) with us. In fact, our fulfillment comes from our being in relationship to God. Yes, it is much more than we can understand or utilize fully, but the Spirit is what leads us into further and fuller experience of God's Life in Jesus each new day. So, even though He is always more than we can understand, or comprehend, He wants us to live with Him, and He live among us. St Paul tells us in Acts 17:27 that "God made us "so that we might seek God.." Since God is a Trinity of Divine Persons, we seek God and seek God and seek God; but this seeking says so much about God, that with God, there is always more to see, always more to grow in, always more to learn. Like any good relationship, every day it gets better, and everyday we learn more about the other, to have even more to love about the other, it never ends. Such personal relationship to God Himself, never bores us, or grows stagnant or stale, for the Spirit will lead us into even more of Him. So we seek Him, and it means that we trust along the way, and the Spirit will lead us to such deeper and deeper understanding and living with God.