

St Pius & St Anthony Trinity Sunday Year B2

Trinity talk makes me think, of how many times we have all been in this situation: A child asks a question and all the adults look at each other, like saying with their eyes to one another, “*Pass*-that one is yours to answer?” Maybe the child asked the deep question about love & sex after they heard about a marriage announcement, then asked, “*Where did I come from?*” Or maybe they asked the more difficult question about death and sin, after they heard news report of the latest mass shooting, “*Why did he do that?*” The adults all look at each other like, “You handle that one?” In these cases, I’d say, we do all know and should just trust more our own instinctive honest response to them, but we hesitate because the stakes seem so high. We want to answer *right*, and base our response on that particular child’s development level- mindset: we want to be careful not to either overwhelm them with full burden of truth, yet also we don’t want to be disingenuous and glibly tossing out a bubble gum answer that doesn’t honor the seriousness of the issue or acknowledge the child’s sincere search. So, to those moments, aren’t we all tempted to say, ‘Oh, it’s a Mystery-welcome to life’. I suggest that we can hear the word ‘mystery’ two ways, 1) as an end to the search like saying, “Stop, do not pass go!” & that’s the easy non-answer or we can hear the word ‘mystery’ as “Yes let’s get going – get into it, now we are talking!” That is how I understand ‘mystery’. It is a compliment. To call something ‘mystery’ is an invitation, not a turn off. It forever invites further reflection, further thought & further experience because it wishes to have its ever increasing depths plumbed, its corners sought out and its center to be dwelt in. To call God ‘Mystery’, He answers us, ‘Yes, Stay a while with me-There is so much to gain here, to learn, appreciate and enjoy.’”

So, when we call God ‘Mystery’ in answer to a child asking, “Why is God a Trinity?”, it is endearing! So let’s get into it, how about our Catholic doctrine on Trinity? Well, first, that’s just God to make us stop and hesitate-to stun our intellects! It begins with Him. Since God is so much *more than us*, it required God to initiate this relationship and continually teach us, reveal Himself to us. He starts all this - and Jesus has done that, revealing to us a Three-Personed God of Mutual Relations – Father Son Spirit eternally sharing and giving, passing love, truth, goodness back and forth, giving and receiving in an infinitely reciprocating relationship. One in Being, union, yet manifest as Three in Becoming, for the Other. As we try to grasp God as Trinity, we have to first acknowledge ‘It is more than me’ – *is this where the ‘We-Three’ of God comes in?* The Revelation of Divine Trinity, it’s so much more than us-we humans didn’t come up with it. God initiates

this whole thing-the revelation of His identity. God is way beyond us. I like how St Augustine tells us that if we think we explain God away, then we aren't understanding. He says, *"If you understood Him, it would not be God"* (Homily 52:6 & 117:3). *It might be something great in our mind, but its not God-because its still **our** minds.* In computer processing language, the example of this would be that if we thought we developed the CODE of God's program, it would crash our hardware (can't hold it!) . When we advance in our grasp of God, we only discover there's always **more** to grasp – like that popular lawyers' firm commercial (the word gives it away) where the prospective client's every response is '**More**', more sprinkles on ice cream, more bubbles in bath, more cheese grated on pasta, more puppies (Of course, more puppies.....) And with God, there is always '**More**'.

That is where an *intuitive* fittingness, or instinctive natural sense to 'Trinity' (3) enters the picture for me.

Is three a crowd? No, three is 'company'. In fact something of the oddness of the Trinity (odd number 3) always invites **even (even)**, more in. Projecting God as a Trinity suggests the invitation call to join-unite-complete. There is always room for another – three begs for an other (*The Depth Psychoanalyst Carl Jung wrote a splendid article once suggesting that Trinity reflects the infinite open-endedness of God*). The Trinity inherently draws another in. As a communion, community of persons, or perfect society of Trinity -Father Son and Spirit- always open to share themselves - that is Divine.

Let's recall what St Paul said, in 1 Corinthians 2:9 "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, God has prepared for those who love Him." Paul is saying, that with God, "there is always more for the ear to hear, more for the eye to see (always), so much more for the heart to hold, (always) with God." God always has more to give & share. Isn't this what we mean when we say God's love is unconditional – no limits, like an open door eternally inviting another in to share? I think Jesus was describing God's-His own life when Jesus taught about 'selfless giving' (*When we give, good returns to us-that love can't help but be responded to*). In Luke 6:38, Jesus taught that after giving, *"good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured back into your lap..."* Something of the unbounded, unconditional, infinite capacity of God to relate and bring life again and again to us, is being taught here. It's perfectly reflected in the Trinity of Persons (all for one, an other- always something to offer-sacrifice-give to another - the inherently other-directedness of God) Such openness to share & give, that is Eternal Life, Father to Son, Son to Spirit and back again Spirit to Father – All of the Trinity to us. This naturally divine

generosity is what we call grace – God’s own identity. Doesn’t St John in his letters repeatedly say it best, “God is Love” (1 John 4:8)?

And love is meant to be shared, which brings us to our specific gospel reading today, because this is where **we enter** the picture-life of God. The great commission. Co-mission, getting out of ourselves together. God invites us into his life’s work. Jesus tells those first followers, “*Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I’ve commanded*” (Matt 28:19-20) God draws us into His life, inviting us to share-spread it. That is what baptism does for us – it births us into God, living with Him. God claims us, gives to us and moves us, in kind, to share Him with others. That’s the ‘Go, baptize’ part (First it happened to us-then we can’t help but pass along the saving good that is poured into our hearts - Rom 5:5) And what does ‘baptize’ mean but to immerse, surround, to be plunged into the life of God. So, Jesus calls us to go surround others with the love of God. Like the Trinity, love cannot be contained, the mystery of God’s life is invitational, welcoming, all inclusive, it is always ever open to grow, to multiply and to draw others in. God’s life Father, Son and Holy Spirit has been given to us. So, which makes us open, excited by mystery, not afraid to answer, and always seeking to draw others into His life along with us. Our commission is that addition in God: one more life, one more grace, one more share.