

St Pius & St Anthony Homily Trinity Sunday Year C (2025) Luke

Jn 16:12 "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now"

Jn 16:13 "when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth"

Jn 16:12 **'much more to tell'!** I hear Jesus! Yet, since today is Father's Day, we take a minute to honor our dads, who with our mothers gave us life, name and a family. To our dads we say thank you, for instilling in us the virtues of discipline & sacrificial work as *we grew up* watching you give yourselves to work and home, to provide and guide us through the chores/jobs you gave to us along with so many of life's lessons (*so valuable, the lessons only learned through experience*)! You raised us!

Here's a good question? **When**, have we grown up? My I heard my brother says once, "I knew I was grown (*another way of saying OLD*), when I started telling my son the same things dad told me! It had come full circle! Not that we admit it the first time around, but what dads tell us, does stick with us! What do parents say to kids all the time, but "You'll understand one day!"

And I mention this, because that is how I hear Jesus today, Him saying, *"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now"* (16:12). He is trying to get something across to us, but it may be too much for now.

However, I hear this statement of Jesus as a great comfort – anytime I read or hear something from Jesus, and feel like I don't get it- I don't understand it – He is saying here, that 'that is okay-be patient' maybe that he even expects that to be my response a little. Confused, but that I shouldn't ignore, or blow it off. He is saying, "Be patient, the SPIRIT will come", bringing the breakthrough to help me. Jesus will later send the meaning to open it up. In John 16:13, Jesus assures us, *"when the Spirit comes, he will guide you to all truth."* So there's more to come – Or "You will get it-be patient" Or as dads tell us, "You'll understand one day"

I have a lot of reason to be thankful, hearing Jesus say this, especially on this **Trinity Sunday**. What a heavy topic, a deep subject! The Identity of God as a Divine Trinity of Equal Persons to explain! How do we begin to outline, describe & detail God's Life as Blessed Trinity?" Comfortingly (and isn't that what we call the SPIRIT-Comforter?) but comfortingly though, Jesus tells, the Spirit will lead us into all the truth of it, (walk us through the steps) into a fuller understanding. So here we go -- What does Trinity mean?

I think a good jumping off place to start is just that, to simply **jumping right** into it! Like learning to swim by first diving into the water! And fittingly, didn't our life of faith begin when we were plunged into the waters of baptism. It wasn't so much explained at first, it was that it we experienced it-(1 John 4:10 "Not that we loved God, but He loved us First!")! We were drawn into God's life, being baptized "In the name of the father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19) We were immersed into faith, into God's life/family, we dove into it!

And Jesus seems to be saying that understanding God is something that we GROW into, by stages, progressive and cumulative (it develops over time-that's mustard seed faith of Matt 17:20). It is natural, that as we get into it, we are going to feel at times that we are in over our heads! But like tackling any good 'mystery' (think of good novel book- just get into it – the plot will carry you). God is that way – as eternally transcendent to us, there is always more to experience with Him, to understand and to know, so we just start by jumping in. Understanding God is like learning to swim—there's always a deeper end to pool to explore, always a higher board to dive from, always a new stroke or style to master swimming.

I remember as a kid, my dad and uncle teaching us how to Ski in the Ohio river. They said, "You'll never learn in the boat, or on the dock, so jump in! One or the other of them would be in the water already, and the other was driving the boat. I remember them saying "When you crash and fall, don't panic or splash about, but just float and wait for boat to circle round to pick you up again." I have to say, **That**-- was always the eeriest feeling -- having gone down, disoriented for second, then bobbing in the water, out there like a speck in the middle of river, all alone, my feet dangling down into the deep, maybe stretching my legs out-hearing a voice say, 'just keep trying that- but there is no bottom river-floor for you to feel" The farther down I'd stretch the colder the water would feel (*but trust me, I'm always okay with feeling cold and colder, because it was the warm spots of water in the city pool that we always wanted to get the heck away from fast!*)

But me using this example of jumping in as metaphor for us trying to understand God's Identity, isn't unique! It is not for nothing that the Moses and Israelites' most pivotal experience of God was when He **led them** through the deeps of the Red Sea-walked through it with them (Exodus 14), and for us as Christians with Jesus, how often Jesus was seaside Himself, frequenting boats (Matt 8:23-27, MK 4:35-41, Lk 8:22-25), but seen more than once walking on water and giving Peter his own walk too (John 6:16-21 & Matt 14:22-33). So, our baptism starts us on a life of always probing a little more the depths of God's life.

We do try to imaginatively come up with pictorial descriptions of God, as Three in One, a Divine Unity among a Multiplicity, Three Persons-yet One God. We all know of St Patrick's attempt using the shamrock, three leaves yet one plant, or there is the example of water in three states, such a Liquid naturally, and then frozen as ice Solid and then heated as Steam-Vapor, or the example of an egg, all one yet having shell, white and yolk, or even the example of burning stick, with the agent source flame, the wood fuel and the trace smoke! Yet, most importantly about the Trinity again, is that God is so much beyond us, that He had to reveal His identity to us. Throughout Jesus' life teaching, He revealed Himself and the Other Persons, Father & Spirit to us. We find the Three poignantly present at high times,

such as baptism, transfiguration, resurrection scenes (but again also throughout all his teaching such as when with Woman at well (John 4), Lazarus's raising (John 11), or nearly every word uttered at the Last Supper). God is three in one, a communion of persons. One perfect, yet multiply present. Yes, it is more than our minds can conceptualize! (as Jesus said, Jn 16:12 at times, we 'cannot bear it'). It's like God's software program is more than our hardware can run – our minds can hold the code- like trying to execute a current program on an old vintage machine. But that is where the Spirit comes in (to lead the way to ALL truth - teach what we need) St Paul tells us this in Romans 8:16, when he says "The Spirit itself bears witness within our spirit" and in 8:26, saying, "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know..., but the Spirit Himself intercedes (in us) with unutterable groanings." So, in the end it turns out that God is not so much to be explained, as He is to be experienced. And thanks be to God, Jesus revealed Himself, the Father and Spirit to us, jumping into this human experience of ours, joining in with our human nature, to give us access to Him always in our souls, inviting us into His life in any of our prayer, our work offered in His Name, and all of our fellowship through baptism in His family!