
Sunday, May 27, 2018 – The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40 | Psalm 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 | Romans 8:14-17 | Matthew 28:16-20

GLANCING THOUGHTS

In Christians believe in one God and only one God. But the heart of Christianity is the belief that this one God is three Persons, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We count only one God. But when we count divine Persons, we count *three*.*

One way to think about the doctrine of the Trinity is to recognize that it is not possible to stop counting in this funny way.

You can't divide the one God into three more fundamental things which make up the one God. God isn't a compound of anything more fundamental. *One* is all there is, when it comes to God.

But here's the hallmark of the doctrine of the Trinity: you still have to count three. The three Persons of the Trinity are not *really* anything else. They aren't roles of God, or modes of God. You can't reduce the three Persons of the Trinity to some more fundamental something in order to get—at bottom—just one. In themselves, they are just Persons, and there are three of them.

Some secularists suppose that *everything whatsoever* is reducible to elementary particles. For

secularists, at the ultimate foundation of reality there is just the impersonal, the cold and uncaring bits of matter and energy that make up the material world.

What the doctrine of the Trinity tells us is just the opposite. At the ultimate foundation of reality, irreducible to anything else, there are the three Persons of the Trinity.

There is a story told about an old lady who believed that the world is flat and rests on the back of a giant turtle. When she was challenged with the following question, "Yes, but what does the turtle rest on?" she replied carelessly, "Oh, it's turtles all the way down!"

She was wrong, of course, and the secularists are wrong, too. Whatever its shape, the whole cosmos rests on the loving and caring Persons of the Trinity. For Christians, it's Persons all the way down.

This is a doctrine worth celebrating.

* The sense of 'Person' here is a technical one. Traditionally, its meaning is that given by Boethius: an individual substance of a rational nature (*De persona et duabus naturis*, c. 2).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. Where do you hear the voice of God? In friends ... the poor ... newspapers ... Pope Francis ... nature ... novels ... music? In your heart?
- We are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." What do we inherit with and in Christ? Which treasures do you want the most? Which do you need the most?
- The Holy Spirit was put in our hearts that "we might understand the things freely given by God" (1 Cor. 2:12). Is the Trinity one of those things? But how can this be since the Trinity is a mystery?

FROM POPE FRANCIS

What do you think Pope Francis means when he says that God is the origin and the aim (goal) of the whole universe? What is the Holy Spirit's job according to the Pope?

The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity ... leads us to contemplate and worship the divine life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: a life of communion and perfect love, the origin and aim of the whole universe and every creature: God.

The Holy Spirit, gift of the risen Jesus communicates the divine life to us and thus he draws us into the dynamism of the Trinity, which is a dynamism of love, communion, mutual service, sharing.

~Pope Francis, Remarks before recitation of the Angelus, Feast of the Holy Trinity, June 16, 2014

LIVING THE READINGS

- Consider how you make the love of God known to others in your life. Is there someone that is in special need of knowing the loving presence of God in their life? How can you help them this week?

The Father is my hope. The Son is my refuge. The Holy Spirit is my protector. Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Let us praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; let us bless and exalt God above all forever! Almighty and everlasting God, to whom we owe the grace of professing the true faith, grant that while acknowledging the glory of the eternal Trinity and adoring its unity, we may through your majestic power be confirmed in this faith and defended against all adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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