



Church of the Holy Family
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Message for the Sunday of the Most Holy Trinity, Year A, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the Church of the Holy Family

The reality of the Holy Trinity is a revelation from the Most High. At the Annunciation of Our Lord, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary and we have in Luke 1:35 - 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you...the child will be holy... and will be called Son of God.' Thus the unveiling of the Holy Trinity takes place.

At the Baptism of Jesus which is recorded by the 4 Gospels, the unfolding of the mystery of the Holy Trinity was set in motion through the lips of St John the Baptist who heard the voice of the Father declaring His Beloved and saw the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus whom he was told to baptize.

In some parts of the Gospel of John, the Trinity is mentioned explicitly e.g. for the 6th Sunday of Easter in Year A, we see in Jn 14:16, 'I shall ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that Spirit of Truth.' Also, we find in Jn 14:26, '...the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything...' (6th Sunday of Easter in Year C) and Jn 15:26, 'When the Advocate comes...the Spirit of Truth who issues from the Father.' The Most Holy Trinity certainly has penetrated into our realm.

We invoke the Trinity each we begin our prayer with the sign of the Cross. In the 2nd Reading today, we see in the last verse (2Cor13:13) a Trinitarian formula which is used at the start of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, 'The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' Indeed the Trinity is invoked at many parts of the Mass eg the Gloria, the Creed, the Eucharistic Prayer etc.

'The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith and life. It is the mystery of God in Himself and therefore the source of all other mysteries of faith.' (CCC 234). Much has been written and much more shall be written about Trinity.

Fortunately, to prevent us from losing track of what is essential, the Fathers of the Church have distinguished what refers to the mystery of God's interior life within the Blessed Trinity (Theology) and what pertains to all works by which God reveals himself and communicates His life (Economy, 'Oikonomia'), (CCC 236).

Both are on the side of the coin. 'God's works ('economy') reveal who He is in himself ('theology'); the mystery of his inmost being ('theology') enlightens our understanding of all his works ('economy').

Besides Creation where God gives life to each one of us, another very important works of God is love. God is love, *Deus caritas est* (1Jn 4:16). From which we receive and experience mercy, kindness and fidelity (1st Reading); and salvation (Gospel text Jn 3:16-18)). The saints are the beneficiaries of these mighty works of God and here are the examples that we have for this week.

Today is the feast day of St Anthony-Mary Gianelli. We commemorate the feast day of St William of York (St William Fitzherbert) on 8th June while 9th June is that of St Ephrem, Doctor of the Church. 10th June is the feast day of St Bogomil (Theophilus) of Gniezno while 11th June is the feast day of St Barnabas. 12th June is feast day of St Odulf and 13th June is the feast day of St Anthony of Padua.

The Psalmist today exhorts us to render to the Most Holy Trinity, 'To you, Glory and Praise for forevermore.'

Fr Stanislaus PANG