



## FR. DANIEL'S CORNER

### UNDIVIDED UNITY - GOD IN THREE PERSONS

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine enunciated by the ecumenical councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the greatest mystery of our Faith, namely, that there are Three Divine Persons, sharing the same Divine nature in one God. The doctrine of three Persons in one God is puzzling, but one can attempt to understand it analogously with these examples-flame, water, and spoken word. Think about FLAME- The flame has color, warmth, and shape. But these are expressions of one flame or Water in the form of solid, liquid, and vapor, and these are three distinct expressions of one reality- water. Furthermore, in a spoken word there is sound (to be heard), meaning (to be understood) and breath (that it may be pronounced). In the same way one God revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Remarkably, all the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass and the Sacraments, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity: "*In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" We are baptized, absolved of our sins, and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity. We bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross invoking the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we conclude our prayers glorifying the Holy Trinity, saying *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* The trinity, thus, become the model of our Christian calling. We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. St Paul admonishes us to be trinitarian in our relationship- "agree with one another, live in peace and ...of love."

The doctrine of trinity is indeed ultimately a practical doctrine with radical consequences for the Christian. YES! it is a mystery, but 'mysterion' can only make sense when it is LIVED OUT, ENCOUNTERED, PARTICIPATED IN, AND SHARED. This eternal exchange of love that exists between the three persons is destined to be shared with us (through Christ)- the complete trinity dwells in us. God is a community of persons, and we are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. Just as God is God only in a Trinitarian relationship, so we can be fully human only as one member of a relationship of three partners. The self needs to be in a horizontal relationship with all other people and in a vertical relationship with God. In that way, our life becomes Trinitarian like that of God. Modern society follows the so-called "I-and-I" principle of unbridled individualism and the resulting consumerism. But the doctrine of the Trinity challenges us to adopt an "I-and-God-and-neighbor" principle: "I am a Christian insofar as I live in a relationship of love with God and other people." Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the building up of the fabric of our family, our Church, our community, and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance.

Community, that is *cum+uno*= with one accord, one voice, one agreement, one love above all is one of solidarity between and among persons. It is a way of living the Gospel attentive to the requirements of justice, understood as rightly ordered relationships between and among persons. *Cum+uno* involves living God's life with one another. It means to side with the poor and the struggling, and to work tirelessly for the promotion of justice, especially for those on the margins (St John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 1991). It means to serve our neighbors in the best possible way when we try to understand their experience; to love our neighbors as ourselves when we treat them as equals, in both protection and compassion; to be Godlike in the way of empathy, and shared commitment, and bold action, and a peace rooted in justice (George W. Bush, June 2, 2020).

Open wide our hearts, O Lord, that we may experience the mystery of your Holy Name, and unceasingly give you glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. God is able!