

Homily: Trinity Sunday 2016: Cycle C: Prov 8: 22-31; Ps 8; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16: 12-15

“The Trinity: Intellectual Abstraction to Real Life Personal Union”

Our belief in the most Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit is **THE FOUNDATION** of everything else we believe as Catholics, but it can seem like an abstraction if we are not careful. How can we take our belief in the most blessed Trinity and bring it into everyday life?

1. We know by God’s Revelation that we human beings are made in God’s image: in our *memory*, in our *intellect*, in our *will* and in our *heart*, and now even in our physical nature or *bodies* because the Second Person of the Trinity took on our human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. But it is not enough to be created in the **image** of God, which is a wonderful thing, but we must also grow in his **likeness** in this life: which is the call to holiness, to become more and more like God in goodness of life. St. Paul today lays out how this process occurs through **the mystery of the Cross**: “... *we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*” St. Paul is saying in essence: if we want to know the Trinity in daily life, we need to pray for a greater love of the Cross, and the grace to unite all our daily sufferings and struggles with God, so they become redemptive in Christ and help us and those we offer them for to grow in holiness, e.g., offering our daily sufferings for the souls in Purgatory.
2. A second way to come to know the Trinity in daily life is to pray for the grace to abandon ourselves to God’s all encompassing providential care. **God’s Providence** (see the classic work by Fr. Reginald Garrigou La-Grange called *Providence* for deeper theological insights on this important topic, or a shorter practical book called: *Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence: the Secret of Peace and Happiness* by Fr. Jean Baptiste Saint-Jure and St. Claude de la Colombiere – both books can be purchased from www.tanbooks.com) means His

guidance and direction of the entire process of history as a whole, as well as His guidance and direction in our individual lives - without canceling out the gift of human freedom. How this all works is **one of the mysteries of the universe**, but it is true nonetheless, as Jesus says in the Gospel, the Father cares about each one of us so much that He even knows “*the number of hairs on our head,*” Wow! God is interested in the minute details of our lives, not because he is nosey as a little boy once said, ha-ha, but because He loves us and true love is always concerned about the details of the other person, to love even in the smallest things of life! Abandoning ourselves to God’s Providential care means that we are willing to **TRUST HIM** and be willing to live a life of humble obedience to His will manifested to us human beings **through the daily circumstances of life** (see Fr. Walter Ciszek’s book *He Leadeth Me* - which is an awesome reflection on this reality which we human beings often fight “tooth and nail” in daily life because we fail to see the “big picture”), and **through the Catholic Faith** guided by the Holy Spirit who will lead us into all Truth as Jesus tells us today in the Gospel. After all, the Trinity’s goal in guiding us is to lead us to ultimate fulfillment and eternal bliss in union with the 3 Divine Persons- not a bad deal!

3. Finally we can come **to know the Trinity** on a daily basis by practicing the interior discipline of calling to mind the reality of the Divine Indwelling (or *the Fire Within* as Fr. Thomas Dubay calls it in his book of the same title) in our souls throughout the day; which is a reality from the moment of our **Baptism**, if we are not conscious of **mortal sin** (*if you don’t know what moral acts are objectively serious, please consult the Catechism of the Catholic Church section on morality, or a good Catholic moral textbook (if you are not sure if one is solid or not, please ask me), and/ or a theologically orthodox priest in the Sacrament of Confession to educate your conscience*) in our souls - which is the **ONLY** thing that can drive the presence of the Trinity away - until we repent and are forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession. That is why the saints would say they would rather die than commit even a single mortal sin, for they never wanted to be separated from the Trinity: the source of all that is good in the universe! Also

every time we receive Holy Communion with faith and devotion, and not in the state of mortal sin, we grow in our union with the Trinity because when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion we are receiving the eternal Son of God into our souls, but also the other two persons of the Trinity, for where the Son is so is the Father and the Holy Spirit, as the 3 Divine persons can never be separated in reality! What an amazing spiritual gift! (There is a great little book, which is out of print but can be purchased occasionally at good used booksellers like Loomer theological booksellers or even on www.amazon.com, called *From Holy Communion to the Blessed Trinity* by M.V. Bernadot, O.P. which explores this reality in depth - try to get a copy). **By entering into the mystery of the Cross by uniting our daily sufferings with Jesus, by abandoning ourselves to Divine Providence, and by calling to mind the Divine Indwelling of the Trinity in our souls by sanctifying grace, on a daily basis, as well as receiving Holy Communion in the state of grace with great faith, we come to personally know the Trinity in love.** Then our belief in the Holy Trinity is no longer is an abstraction, but in truth the most tangible reality of our lives. May all of us come to daily know the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on a deeper level, in grace, so that we can daily become like them more and more in this earthly life and so one day enter into their Divine life, in perfect union and fullness, in the Beatific vision in Heaven, which will be happiness and joy beyond imagining for as St. Paul put it, *eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it dawned on the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him* (1 Corth 2: 9). This is the wisdom God wants us to live by, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit. God bless you.