

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – 06/07/20

Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity!

The Most Holy Trinity is a mystery that can never be comprehended. It's a gratuitous glimpse from God into His intimate life.

It's not something that we could have discovered through study or even prayer. It is a mystery of our faith that had to be revealed by Jesus Christ, the Son God.

Now if we just try to think of the Most Holy Trinity in merely human terms we will likely get frustrated and give up.

How would we ever reconcile what we heard in the first reading today, that the Lord is "a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity" with what we heard in the gospel that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to die that we might be reconciled to Him.

It didn't have to be this way. God could have chosen any number of other ways to save us. He could have saved us by a simple act of His Will – three simple words – I forgive you. Why then if God is so good and gracious did He choose to save us in such a bloody manner and why did he send His Son for such a gruesome mission and not just go Himself?

From a purely human perspective one might be tempted to think that this was a cruel and callous act of cowardice.

But we cannot look at it from a purely human perspective.

The Church teaches us that God is three persons sharing one single Divine nature.

In some way this isn't completely foreign to us. We are created in the image and likeness of God after all. As human beings all around the globe we are many persons who share one single human nature.

The big difference – the infinitely big difference – is that our nature, by its very essence, is limited – it is finite.

So if another human being suffers we don't experience the pain directly. However, if we are emotionally and psychologically healthy then we often feel compassion for others in their suffering which causes us some degree of suffering as well. And even more so if the one who is suffering is really close to us.

God's essence is unlimited – it is infinite.

For this reason there can only be one God.

The point is this: God, the Most Holy Trinity, is absolutely one, distinct only in personhood.

And because the three Persons share the same Divine – Infinite – nature they are never separate one from the other.

Therefore, what one Divine Person does and experiences so the other two Divine Persons do and experience also.

While the mission of salvation was primarily the mission of the Second person of the Trinity, the Son – Jesus Christ – the Father and the Holy Spirit were not somehow absent or aloof – as if they were just sitting on thrones in heaven experiencing a kind of compassion for the Passion of Jesus. The three Divine Persons are one.

I'm really at a loss to say much more...because **it is** a mystery... the most beautiful mystery the world has ever known.

Bishop Fulton Sheen once referred to the Bible – the story of redemption – as the greatest love story ever told. This is the story of the Most Holy Trinity at work in creation.

The Most Holy Trinity can be summed up in one word – Love.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.