

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Feast of The Most Holy Trinity

Today, sisters and brothers, we celebrate the wonder of God's nature. We rejoice in the knowledge that the one true God is a Blessed Trinity of Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three Persons in one God.

The exact nature of the Holy Trinity is something our limited minds have great difficulty in understanding. The three in one and one in three leaves us somewhat befuddled. Oftentimes we might think of the Holy Trinity as so far above and beyond us that we cannot even begin to comprehend who God is.

In one sense of course this is true, after all God is greater than anything we could ever contemplate and God is also separate from creation, just as any great artist is separate from the masterpieces they create. Leonardo Da Vinci is not the Mona Lisa and Michel Angelo is not the Sistine Chapel.

No matter how wonderful their art is, it could never compare with the wonder of their own being, their humanity. The same is true of Creation. Despite its wonder and beauty, Creation does not compare to the wonder of its creator.

Experts tell us however, that if one studies the work of a great master, it is possible to identify the tell-tale signs of their creator. The artist's unique fingerprint is in the masterpieces they create. Something of the artist's personality, something of their essence, is communicated through their art. The same is true of God. If we study Creation in general, and human nature in particular, we will uncover the essence of God's being.

To uncover the tell-tale signs of God's nature, we need only focus on that which captivates us most, on our greatest yearnings. Above all else, that which captivates us most, is love. Countless novels, plays, sonnets and songs have been written about love, not to mention paintings which depict love. Love is the deepest yearning of humanity.

Pope Benedict teaches that, "The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: only love makes us happy ... we live to love and be loved." (1) To be loved and to love in return

means everything to us as human beings, because God has created us, and as John teaches us, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" ( 1 John 4: 7-8). Love is so important to us that those who unfortunately grow up without feeling loved, often grow up feeling worthless.

The second indication of the artist's true nature is revealed in the manner by which we come to experience Love. A person could never experience Love, if they lived their life, from birth to death, in complete solitude. Love is the rich fruit of relationship. It is through our relationships that we come to know what it means to be loved and to love in return. Without relationship we could never truly understand what love is. Love would remain an idea, a concept, merely something we might read about. It would never become a lived reality. Relationship is key because Love is something which is experienced between persons.

Here then we see the second essential characteristic of God nature. God is relational. God is not a solitude. God is a Trinity of Persons fused together by their single shared nature, which is love. And so, the true nature of the artist has been revealed in the masterpiece of Creation and that nature is Love lived out in Relationship.

In order for us to experience love, God has called us to live out our lives within families. It is through these intimate family relationships that we come to know what love is. Family life is God's blueprint for humanity, the icon which reflects the true nature of the Trinity.

The Universal Catechism teaches that, 'The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.' (2)

Let us ask God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to be at the heart of our family life. Let us ask God to ever strengthen the bonds of love that we share so that our families may truly glorify his name. Amen

1: Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus address, Trinity Sunday 2009

2: Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2205