

Pastor's letter

June 07, 2009

Holy Trinity

Dear parishioner,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28: 19)

The above mentioned is the Trinity and together with the oneness of God, it constitutes a dogma of our Christian religion. This concept of God as Trinity, was coined in the third century (325) during the First Council of Nicaea (present-day in İznik is a city of Turkey).

God being One and Only God is also revealed in the *persons* as having the one identical essence or nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The three Persons are separate as: *God Father*: the creator of the universe. The *Son*: proceeds from the Father before the creation of the world, born as man in the person of Jesus Christ by the Virgin Mary. The *Holy Spirit* that the Father sends in the name of Christ to teach and to understand the revealed truths.

In last Sunday's letter I mentioned that I would speak today in a more detailed way, about the Trinity, but honestly, to speak in detail about the Trinity, perhaps is a great pretension. This is one of the great mysteries of our faith. Therefore, with humility, I withdraw what I affirmed last Sunday and I share with you just what is in my mind and in my heart when I think about the “Holy Trinity.”

Sometimes I think about the sense of Christian life, what importance it has for me as a priest to be of service to the Church and how much importance it holds for the people around me. I wonder what value it is to me and to others; how the teachings of Christ enter and take root in each of us to the point to the point that they turn our single action into expressions of Christian enthusiasm.

A series of reflections and questions and association of ideas generally bring me to consider the relationship between God and me. Personally I believe that each one of us has experience with God, a personal experience that sometimes we find difficult to describe.

I believe that the measure in which we feel we belong to Jesus Christ can help us experience the Trinity living within us. He accompanies us in everyday life. In every situation we experience God who protects us with His love as our Father; He accompanies us and walks with us in the presence of His Son, Jesus; and He illuminates us, inspiring us and sustaining us as the Holy Spirit.

This is what I feel and imagine about the Trinity, even though to the eyes of the theologians it can appear an ingenuous and superficial explanation, but this is the only way in which I can see the Trinity present in my life.

A deep relationship between God and us, which allows us to go beyond the simple appearances that our vision as human being offers us. To go beyond the human vision means to see in others the same deep relationship that exists between God and ourselves. In

other words, to realize that God in His Trinitarian form is always in the middle of us, every day.

In the beginning of this letter I included the theological definition of the Trinity. An only God in three distinctly separate persons, united but different from one another.

The feast of the Trinity celebrates a God that is communion, relationship and family. God is family.

The Trinity is not a mathematical problem ($1+1+1=1$) but He is the most beautiful expression of love, which all of us have the opportunity to experience in communion among human beings.

In the relationship of love what counts is to be united, but not to be fused into the other. It is important to give ourselves but not to lose our own personality. The true love has the same relationships that exist in the love of the Trinity: united but not uniform; separate but not divided.

The present Pope (Benedict XVI) in one of his publication said: “The Trinity is the relationship among an I, a You and an Us.”

This concept expresses very well the idea of the dialogue in God. In God there is a Father that loves His Son and who receives love from His Son. Their love is the Holy Spirit. In God there is relationship, there is friendship, there is meeting, there is communion, there is love.

If a couple loves each other it doesn't depend on the fact that they are together, but from the type of relationship that comes to exist between them. Two people are loved deeply if they succeed in expressing their whole personality.

The more a person is himself the more he is open to the other.

A parent's love for their child and the love from the child towards the parent, is not seen because they always say “Yes!” It is seen in the way they listen on both sides. A child listens to his parent, because before the words, he feels his love, and a parent listens to his child because in the future he will see the fruits of his love.

The hope of one day seeing all the people of the world live in common accord, can never depend on the sense of egoism, but on the desire to feel all equal.

You see how the human being is not different from the concept of the Only God and Trinitarian. In union to be the same, in perfect equality to receive and to give love.

The feast of the Trinity is an invitation that we receive from God to have the same ambitions, to live His life and to rejoice in His Love.

The Lord invites us to be a great family that lives in communion with God and with all humanity.

This is my vision of the Trinity, it can perhaps appear a little ingénue, but it is what I feel and I imagine the Trinity to be inside of me and around me.

Peace, Father Luciano