

HOMILY - Trinity Sunday - May 27, 2018

One plus one plus one equal one. Whoa, you might say: “That’s not right or Is this new math? or Is this fuzzy math? or has monsignor just lost it.” Well, today is one plus one plus one equal one Sunday. Sometimes we call it Trinity Sunday. In fact, we always call it Trinity Sunday - a day set aside to remind us that there is just one God, but three persons: the one, the Father, plus the one, the Son, plus the one the Holy Spirit all equal just one God.

How can we possibly explain that God is one God, but three persons? First of all, we find the Trinity in scripture. In fact, in today’s gospel Jesus gives his disciples the mandate to go baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Note carefully, he says in the “name,” not “in the names.” In the Old Testament, we see God as Father referred to many times as father at work among the people. Then, in the New Testament, Jesus reveals himself as God, but as the Son who has received everything from the Father, that is, he is equal to the Father. This Jesus promises to continue God’s presence in the world through the Holy Spirit that we celebrated just last Sunday on Pentecost, this Holy Spirit who comes into the world to keep in touch with God’s creation.

Many have tried to explain the Trinity in human terms. St. Patrick used the three leaves of clover leaf and pointed to the unity of the clover found in the threeness of the leaves. St. Ignatius compared the Trinity to three notes being played in harmony to create one sound. Others have compared the Trinity to water. Water exists in three forms: liquid, steam, and ice. Three different manifestation of the same reality of water.

But what does this Blessed Trinity mean for me in my life? Well, think about this. God the Father created me out of love; God the Son redeemed me out of love; God the Holy Spirit sanctifies me in love. That’s a lot of loving going around.

Some try to reduce God to their own feeble understanding of God. One day, St. Augustine was walking along a beach trying to fathom the Trinity. He asked himself over and over: “How can God be three and one at the same time?” As he walked, there was a young boy with a small bucket running back and forth between the sea and a hole he had dug on the shore. Augustine asked the boy: “What are you doing?” The child said, “I am emptying the ocean into this hole.” Augustine stopped dead in his tracks and finally understood. He realized that he was doing the same

thing as the small child. He was trying to pour the infinite God into his finite little mind. He was trying to squeeze the immenseness of God into his small brain.

Here's a small prayer that might help us understand better the Blessed Trinity. God almighty Father, thank you for the creation of the world that you have given us. Thank you for the gift of life that you share with each one of us. Jesus, God the Son, thank you for saving us from sin, from being condemned to our own weaknesses. Thank you for the love that we can share with one another. God the Holy Spirit, invade our lives so that we may spread your love and goodness with all those we meet. Give us your wisdom to face the struggles of each day. Holy Trinity, one God, bless all of us in your holy name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.