

God's Boundless Love

Prov. 8: 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5: 1-5; Jn. 16: 12-15

Last Sunday, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Pentecost; the great feast commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world. Pentecost is said to be the birthday of the Church since, after they received the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to preach the Good News to all nations in their own languages.

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity; the mystery of the three persons of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the central mystery of our faith and the faith of our Church.

At the beginning of Mass, we make the sign of the Cross and intone the words: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* During our Profession of Faith, we affirm our belief in the three persons of God. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the candidate is baptized 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' in accordance with the instruction of Jesus Christ. Our liturgies are riddled with references to the Holy Trinity.

Although this is our central belief, many of us struggle to understand it. Our Catechism tells us that it is the mystery of God Himself and, therefore, it is the source of all the other mysteries of our faith. Perhaps this explains our difficulties with understanding the Holy Trinity. We cannot adequately explain God. Any words that we could use would be inadequate, limited by the weakness of our human expression. How could we use our limited words to describe or explain something without limits; something infinite?

God is infinite. Infinite in His power, infinite in His majesty, and, most importantly, infinite in His love which He has shown over and over again throughout history. God created us, then He chose to dwell among us, and now He dwells within us; all out of His infinite love for us. Although 'awesome' is an overused word these days, we can say that God and His love are truly awesome.

When we are faced with something that renders us completely in awe, we are often at a loss for words. Why? Because we run up against the limits of our human intellect and experience. So it is with God. The infinite love of God is beyond our limited scope of our comprehension. We cannot hope to explain it.

St. Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church, said this: *'...the mystery is so sublime and it so exceeds our understanding, that we can only bow our heads and adore in silence. In the presence of the unspeakable mystery of the Trinity, the highest praise is silence; the silence of the soul that adores, knowing that it is incapable of praising or glorifying the divine Majesty worthily.'*

And so we have a Doctor of the Church rendered speechless when contemplating the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Of course, we should use the intellect that God gave us to try to come to an understanding of this mystery. But, in the end, if we continue to struggle, there is no need for despair. Perhaps we should follow St. Catherine's lead and simply '*bow our heads and adore in silence*' ...adore the boundless love of our God.