

The Paper Pulpit

(Reflections from the Pastor)

The Feast of the Holy Trinity

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Each year we celebrate this feast the first Sunday after Pentecost. This makes sense after all since Jesus (God the Son) and the Father (God the Father) just sent the Holy Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) upon the Apostles. But the Trinity is not easily explained. We would Love to Experience the Triune God. We would love to see three Visitors come through our doorway, and hear this: “Hey, Dude: I’m Jesus; this is my Father; and this is the Holy Spirit.” But that won’t happen. At least not to most of us...

Instead, we are asked to believe on the basis of **The Tradition** (i.e., the Truths that have been passed on to us over the centuries) to believe in the same way that St. Thomas the Apostle was asked to believe, based on the witness of his ten fellow apostles. The Church—that’s the People of God, you and me—received our faith and our belief in the Most Holy Trinity from the Apostles and their Disciples. Since the earliest preaching of the Apostles and Disciples, we believe; a belief based upon their witness to us.

By faith, we believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. By faith, we believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who became man for our salvation. By faith, we believe in the Holy Spirit, who through the Prophets foretold God’s plan of salvation, including the Incarnation, the Nativity, then his Passion, his Resurrection from the dead, and his Ascension to heaven. The Most Holy Trinity is giving us a model for our own unity, the same unity experienced by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our Catholic Church received this apostolic preaching and this apostolic faith, and now preserves it all very carefully, transmitting to us these truths exactly as they were received. For this very reason, we trust in the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church throughout the ages down to this very day. More than likely I will use the creed which we say at Mass each week as a basis of what we believe about the Trinity. The creed is a summary of not everything we believe but is an outline of what we believe about the Trinity. After all, we can never completely understand God while we are still on earth. But that does not mean we can’t know anything about God. God is Love and God is Trinity—Father, Son and Spirit—three persons in one God.

So... No, you *probably* will not visibly see angels or visitors from heaven. Instead, you are called by Jesus to step out in faith and believe in the Holy Trinity, based upon what the Apostles and their disciples taught us. To quote Jesus (and this is what he told St. Thomas the Apostle, the “Doubter”), “***blessed are those who have NOT seen, and have believed***” (*John 20:29*).

Pope John Paul II reminded us that we all need to proclaim the “core” of the Gospel of Life. I quote, “It is the proclamation of a living God who is close to us, who calls us to profound communion with himself and awakens in us the certain hope of eternal life” (*The Gospel of Life, #81*). The Holy Trinity, Father-Son-Holy Spirit, **wants us** to share in their very own love!

So it is with great gratitude for the gift of The Holy Trinity’s love that we can pray lovingly: Glory be to the Father (+), and to the Son (+), and to the Holy Spirit (+). Amen!

Brewers versus the Phillies: You have the chance to go to a professional baseball game. Come join others from the parish watch the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday, July 10. The cost is \$60 and includes the entrance fee to the game, the bus and lunch. We’ll begin with 8:00am Mass and then head out just after that around 8:45. Forms are available in the gathering space. Space is limited, so sign up now.

Church Cleaning: I am looking for volunteers to help clean the church. The only qualification needed is to be able to push a broom and/or turn on a vacuum and/or wash a window. The more folks we can get, the merrier. Very flexible scheduling (come in when you can). If a few folks donated 15-30 minutes periodically, it would go a long way to help our church stay clean.

Want to make a few extra bucks? We are also looking for someone to oversee the cleaning. See Fr. Jim for details.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Jim Trempe