

Glory Be To The Father, And To The Son, And To The Holy Spirit....

Last Sunday, the Feast of the Pentecost brought to completion the three stages of salvation history, namely, the stage of God the Father: Creator and Maker of all things- time of Israelites, the patriarchs and the prophets, the stage of God the Son: the redeemer and Savior of humanity- time of the earthly life of Jesus, and the stage of God the Holy Spirit- the vivifier and sanctifier- time of the Church: apostles and us. With the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit last Sunday, we come today to celebrate that though there are three persons, there is one God. It is a mystery. A mystery is not something unknown, but something that we cannot comprehend completely by human reasoning. One of the analogies to describe this mystery is the Sun. The Sun is one. The Sun that shines is God the Father, the rays of the sun is God the Son and the heat that comes from the sun is God the Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the Trinity-Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit has been said to be at the very center of Christian faith and belief. The Trinity doctrine says that there is one God. The Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God. They exist in three persons who are *co-equal, co-eternal, and omnipotent*. The three in one are co-eternally worshiped and glorified as one God. In this unity, there is also *equality and sameness in essence and substance*. The Father, the creator, sends the Son (John 3:16), the Son is obedient to the will of the Father (John 17: 3-5) and seeks to glorify Him in Himself (John 13:31-32), and both the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit (John 14:26, 15:26), who glorifies the Son (John 16:14-15). Jesus Christ is the self-revelation of God the Father and the Holy Spirit is the revelation of the Father and the Son.

The readings of today point to this great mystery of the Blessed Trinity. The first reading celebrates the superiority of the God of Israel, the unique and creator of the world who chose the race of Israel to reveal his love and salvation to us. St. Paul in the second reading showed that his apostolic experiences had revealed God to him as Trinity. Matthew ends his Gospel with the command of the risen Jesus to his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity and the promise of his ever-abiding presence. The mystery of the blessed Trinity reminds us of the mystery of our salvation which began from God the Father to Son in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Trinity is the heart of our salvation. (Even a mad man recognizes the Trinity as the source of salvation and that is why he said “*ome n’afa nna n’iru ome n’azu makana amaghi ebe onye nzoputa si abia*”). The Trinity, the beginning and the end of our lives as Christians is the greatest manifestation of God’s love. Out of his love, he created us in his image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), redeemed us in through the death and resurrection of Christ, and remains with us in love through the ever-sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. The salvation of humanity begins and ends in the Trinity. Our part is to respond to this love and live in this love always by being mindful that God created us to know him, love him, and be with him now and forever. Amen.