

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 we cannot comprehend entirely 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 are God the Son, and the heat that comes from the Sun is God the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity-Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit doctrine are at the 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. There is also equality and sameness in essence and substance in this unity. 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.

Today's readings, in different ways, point to this great mystery of the Blessed Trinity. The first reading, the book of Proverbs, celebrates the superiority of the God of Israel, the unique creator of the world who chose the race of Israel to reveal his love and salvation to us. In the second reading, St. Paul showed that his apostolic experiences had revealed God to him as Trinity. Jesus in the Gospel describes his unbreakable connection between him as God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. Trinity is the heart of our salvation. 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 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.