

“The Day the Church was Born”

Last week, the Son of God poured out the Holy Spirit from the Father on His Church. This week, we celebrate the solemnity of the Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

In our Gospel reading Jesus again revealed to His apostles the concept of the Trinitarian God by sending them out to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit **‘and not in the names of’**. It is through our baptism that we become new creation.

We can shed light on the doctrine of the Trinity by considering what happened in the fourth-century Church where a priest Arius theologized that Jesus could not have existed from eternity that he was only the highest created being.

His postulate divided the Church even emperor Constantine believed in his reasoning. But God raised up St Athanasius considered as the **‘father of orthodoxy.’** He was dedicated to the doctrine of Christ divinity. This led to the call of the First Ecumenical Council in 325 where the Church came up with the **Nicene Creed** that we profess every Sunday during Mass.

That is what bad theology that is not grounded in revealed doctrine would do. It will lead people astray from the truth. Because, if Arius had prevailed, we would not have the doctrine of the Trinity nor would we have the doctrine of Christ being Human, Divine, and one Person.

We still have many Arius’ in this world. We have some denomination who claim that God was human like us and He evolved to become God and that they too would evolve to become god. We have to remember that Philosophy and Theology are tools for understanding God in light of revealed teachings of our Lord, tradition and faith of the Catholic Church, handed on by the apostles and guarded by Church fathers.

We cannot and would never know fully the infinite God who is fully present in the smallest insect as He is fully present in an elephant. He is our God whose depth is unfathomable. He fills all things and yet is beyond all things. So whatever we say or know about Him, is like a drop of water in a bottomless ocean.

Who then is the Trinity to us? He is a mystery to us. He is the one true holy and perfect God consisting of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is united in nature, equality and love, and by His divine activity, He is in search of us so He can sanctify us and make us His adopted children. The mystery of the Trinity communicates to us that God is a family. The family so close and united that although they are three persons, they are one God.

In the Eucharist, we all receive the Trinity into our body because wherever the Son is, so will you find the Father and the Holy Spirit. Though the Father and the Spirit do not have a body like Christ, they are present to us spiritually.

I would like to share part of a reflection on the Trinity by St Catherine of Siena with you she said:

“Eternal Trinity, Godhead, mystery deep as the sea, you could give me no greater gift than the gift of yourself. For you are a fire ever burning and never consumed, which itself consumes

all the selfish love that fills my being. Yes, you are a fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light and causes me to know your truth. By this light, reflected as it were in a mirror, I recognize that you are the highest good, one we can neither comprehend nor fathom. And I know that you are beauty and wisdom itself. The food of angels, you gave yourself to man in the fire of your love.”

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our faith, hope, and charity.