

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
Year B: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20
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It could be argued that the most important thing Jesus Christ revealed to the world when He walked the earth is the truth of the Blessed Trinity, which we celebrate on this annual feast. Jesus revealed many important truths to the world, but perhaps the most important truth He taught us is that God is a Trinity of three Divine Persons, and yet He is still only one God – three distinct Divine Persons who are united by sharing one divine substance or nature. Jesus revealed this great truth by teaching us that He also is divine – He said, “*The Father and I are one*” (Jn 10:30), and then also by revealing the existence of the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 14:36), whom we honored last Sunday on Pentecost. And as we just heard in the Gospel, when Jesus sent the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, He told them to baptize “*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*” (Mt 28:19). One God in three Divine Persons: this is the highest and most basic truth of the Christian Faith.

Until Jesus revealed this great truth, the Jewish People proudly taught the world that there is only one God. Throughout the Old Testament, God was revealing to the Chosen People that there are no other gods, and the Jewish People were meant to share this revelation with the pagan world, to convince the world to turn away from worshipping idols. The first commandment received by the Israelites from God was “*You shall not have other gods beside me*” (Ex 20:3). And in the first reading today, we heard Moses tell the people, “*This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other*” (Dt 4:39).

So, the first great truth about God that was revealed to the world was that He is only one – there are no other gods, and no *one* and no *thing* is equal to God in His majesty and His power. But then God sent His Son into the world, His Son who proceeds from the Father eternally – without beginning or end –, and He brought with Him the sublime truth that within the one God there are three distinct Persons – equally divine and equally eternal –, and yet they do not contradict the unity of God, because they all share the one divine nature. For over 2,000 years, theologians and ordinary Christians have sought to understand and explain this awe-inspiring truth which Jesus revealed to us and which is the highest truth of our faith.

The truth of the Blessed Trinity is loaded with important consequences and implications for our lives. There's always a link between the truth about God and the truth about ourselves, because we are created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), which means we resemble God in a way that no other creatures do. And this also means that we will understand ourselves better, if we understand the truth about God that Christ has revealed to us. For example, if we are made in the image and likeness of God, and God is a Trinity of Persons who share a unity of life and love each other freely and perfectly, then we will find fulfillment if we also use our freedom to love others and live for them, rather than for ourselves.

Another consequence of our faith in the Trinity is an urgency to pray for Christian unity. All of us who believe in Jesus Christ and in the Trinity should be bothered and saddened by the divisions among Christians. It's a scandal to the world that all believers in Christ are not united in one Church. From the world's perspective, if Christians can't agree about what God revealed to the world, or about how to live, then Christ must not be divine and Christianity must not be a true religion. This is what Our Lord worried would happen, when He said, "*I pray that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me*" (Jn 17:21). The more divided Christians are, the more the world will find it hard to believe in Christ. And everyone who believes in Christ must believe in the Trinity which He revealed, and the Trinity is a model of unity for all Christians. The sad divisions among Christians should be unacceptable to all of us.

But, what do we do about it? Well, most of us don't have the opportunity to engage in official ecumenical efforts. But we can all make an effort to live as faithfully as possible to the teachings of Christ, to signal to other Christians and to the world that what Jesus taught is the truth about how to live. The more each of us configures our lives to Christ, the more united Christians will be. The more each of us converts our hearts to Christ, the more united all Christians will be. The more each of us strives to love and serve Christ, the more united all Christians will be. If we all focus on Christ, Christ will be the glue that unites all Christians. And then the unity of the Trinity will be reflected in the unity of Christians, and the world will have better reason to accept Christianity as the one true faith.