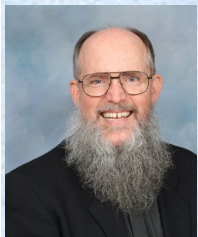


## Homily Rerun: June 11, 2017 - Fr Bill

### God Is Trinity



Preaching on Trinity Sunday is ‘the best of times and the worst of times.’ It is frustrating because in the beginning and in the end I really do not know what I am talking about. (Yes, I do realize that some of you do not see that as being different from any other week.) It is exciting because I get little glimpses into God and His relationship with us. These glimpses are jewels of joy and I offer three of them (it is Trinity Sunday) to you today. Please do not try to fashion them into a necklace or bracelet but just enjoy them sparkling in the sun.

**#1: God Is Mystery.** This is reason for rejoicing.

Would you really want a god that you can understand, a god small enough to fit into your mind? How much time do husbands spend trying to solve the mystery their wives? Wives may at times be more inclined to use the word ‘jerk’ for their husbands than the word ‘mystery’ but the basic reality is the same. Indeed, was there not something in the ‘falling in love,’ the ‘infatuation’ that was really a touching of the mystery of the other? And it took your heart captive! There is something about persons that always remains mystery to others and even to themselves. The mystery of God is to be enjoyed, not solved.

**#2: God Is Relationship.** At the very core of His being God is not just one, but three in one.

- a. This relationship Which is God is Personal in Its Identity. It is not a relationship between inanimate objects like rocks (e.g. limestone and marble) or powers (e.g. lightning and thunder).
- b. This relationship Which is God is Oneness in Its Essence. This gets to the heart of the mystery as there is no way we can think of or even imagine a perfect oneness such that three are actually one. We get a glimpse of this in the relationship of Holy Matrimony (the image and likeness of God) in which the husband and wife make love and the love which they have made is a third person who is truly both of them (the oneness between them) and yet neither of them (a unique individual).
- c. This relationship Which is God is Love in Its Methodology. Love is its work, what it does. Love is its bond and since the love is perfect the bond is perfect, the oneness is perfect. Love is what God does and really all that He does. Love is what God is and all that He is. Love is what the Trinity is and all that the Trinity is. God could love without being a multiplicity of persons but could not be love without being a multiplicity (whatever the number) of persons.

**#3: God Is Holy.** “For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.” (Mass: the Gloria)

God’s holiness coincides with His glory as His absolute attribute. I have at times told y’all that God just ‘bes’ God; that is all He does. His being God is holiness and/or glory. For us, made in the image and likeness of God, holiness is a matter of uniting and submitting our wills to God, and this is manifest in obedience which carries out the will of God in our decisions and actions. In the Trinity there is a perfect union of wills – thus one will and perfect holiness.

“Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. ... Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” (Mass: the Holy, Holy) When we submit to the will of God all that we do is done in the name of the Lord and we are blessed or holy. Jesus told us that He came to do the will of the One Who Sent Him. Jesus demonstrates the fullness or perfection of this submission of His will to that of the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He died.

This brings us back to where we started: God is mystery; God is Trinity. Really, God is God and you and I are not. But this God Who is mystery, relationship, one, personal, love and holy is also, by His own free choice, Our Father.