

## ***The Trinity - Revelation, Mystery, and Love***

Today the Church reflects on the character of God as expressed in one of the great mysteries of our faith... The Trinity. Mysteries like the Incarnation, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and the Trinity tell us something about the unique character of God. God reveals himself in them. Everything human and everything Christian bears the imprint of the Holy Trinity. To understand the Trinity is to understand love in its truest and deepest reality. The mystery of “three persons in one God” communicates what 1 John 4:8 states: “God is love.”

### *The Christian Faith is Unique!*

These mysteries speak to the uniqueness of our Christian faith. They are solely and singularly unique among the world’s religions. They are what set Christianity apart from every other world religion. They are revealed truths... like the layers of an onion... the more we pull away the deeper we go.

### *The Importance of Mystery*

So what are we describing when we say that the Most Holy Trinity is a mystery? A mystery is something that is obscure... we can grasp aspects of it but the larger part of it remains unintelligible. A mystery is a truth... and so the mysteries of the faith are truths. However, they are truths of which we can only know a part. Mystery is also a part of human existence. Mysteries such as love, truth, and beauty, like God are inexhaustible. Mystery surrounds the nature of God. That is because unlike us He is infinite, immeasurable, and limitless... But He has endowed us with a nature that allows us to know something of Him. This knowledge is like an endless gallery. We advance ever deeper enriching our minds and hearts, but we will never come to its end in our lifetime. It is an inexhaustible well of truth. Mystery is an invitation to think, to pray and to reflect. It is food for the mind, heart, and soul.

### *Revelation is Progressive*

We know that many things Jesus knew, he could not tell his disciples because they were not able to grasp them. He taught them what they were able to learn at the time. We see this throughout the Scriptures. Actions or activities are often

confusing in relation to what we know about Christ and what he taught. For example... in the Old Testament there are many passages where the Israelites destroyed other people in the name of God. The belief driving those events was that Israel could not risk being tainted by the pagan religions that surrounded them. Belief in one God was singularly unique and the relationship between God and Israel was also unique. This belief was a revealed truth from God. And because it was revealed truth, the Jews understood that purity of religion was to be safeguarded at all costs. However, when Jesus came, he presented another way to preserve that purity of religion... through conversion of heart. The people of the Old Testament had grasped a great and important truth, but only one side of it.

### *God's Revelation is Inexhaustible*

There is no end to God's revelation. God can only reveal to us as much as we can understand. God's revelation is the revelation of all truth. He is both the possessor and giver of all truth. Truth is not a human discovery; it is God's gift. It is not something which we create; it is something waiting to be discovered. God's supreme and ultimate revelation came in his Son Jesus Christ. God continues to lead us to a greater revelation of who Jesus is. Part of the greatness of Jesus is his inexhaustibleness. No one has ever grasped all that he came to say. The closer we are to Jesus, the better we will know him. The more we become like him, the more he will be able to tell us. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and God's grace. The "Spirit of truth" (Jn. 16:13) continues to guide us in realizing God's divine will: His own life, transforming our human life.

### *Communion – A Family of Love*

It is important for us to remember that God in His unity, is the ultimate communion... we are part of a family of love. Communion is a gift of grace. It is "the love of God" being "poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5). If we want to understand what it means to love and to be a part of this family of love all we need to do is look at the cross... There we see genuine love in its fullness and in its glory... We also see that love is a decision... it is a choice... it is to say to God, let your will be done in me! It is our Amen!