

The Most Holy Trinity

Sunday June 4, 2023

- From the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist June 2, 1996

This week we celebrate the feast of the Trinity. We contemplate the glorious, if incomprehensible, mystery of Three Divine Persons in One God. Were we able to live for countless centuries on the earth, were we able to assemble the most brilliant intellectuals who have ever existed, still, we would be at a loss to explain such a mystery, for it truly is supernatural – above the power of nature to fathom.

In the Book of Exodus, prior to the reading which we have heard today, there was a conversation that the Lord had with Moses. In this dialogue, Moses said to the Lord, “Show me Your glory, I pray.” The Lord replied, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. *But, you cannot see My face; for no one can see me and live.*”

In the portion of Exodus which formed the first reading for today’s liturgy, Moses was imploring the Lord to “come along with hm” to face the people “for they are a stiff-necked people.” At the same time Moses pleads and he asks the Lord to remember that they are His people, and he asks for pardon on their behalf. The Lord does relent and, filled with love for His people, enters into another covenant. He will be their God and they will be His people.

Paul, in the second letter to the people of Corinth, admonished them to “live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” He then spoke words which we often use in prayer, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” The Blessed Trinity – Three Persons in One God – was an intricate part of Christian life from the very beginning.

Finally, in the gospel account, Jesus speaking to Nicodemus reminds him that the love of God for the world and its people led him to “give up” His only Son for the salvation of humankind. Through Jesus Christ, the world is offered the hope of eternal happiness in the kingdom of the Father. God’s purpose is to save. God loves so deeply that the salvation of all people is willed – but not forced.

We are called to be a holy people, a people set apart, a Christ-like people. Jesus came to earth and did all in His power to show us the way to live on earth and the way to attain eternal salvation. There are certain beliefs which we hold that are called “supernatural mysteries” – truths that are simply beyond our comprehension. The Holy Trinity which we celebrate today is one such truth. Why do we believe in such mysteries? Because the Lore has, in some way, revealed them to us and God can not deceive us. One day, when we step beyond the veil of this earth and enter into the presence of the Lord, we shall understand more fully things which are hidden from us in this world. Then we shall understand – and our joy shall be complete.

圣三主日 (6/4/2023)

今日是天主圣三节。天主向我们揭示了三位一体的奥秘。圣父对我们无限的爱情，藉着圣子的赎世工程，并透过护慰者圣神彰显出来。三位一体的奥秘是我们教会信仰的核心，即圣父，圣子，圣神。

天主和他的智慧，即圣言一道创造了天地万物和我们人类。智慧存在于时间之前。天主在创造我们人类时，他用智慧把他爱的法律和道德的诫律铭刻在人们的心里。

当我们的祖先亚当和夏娃受毒蛇的唆使偷食禁果后，我们人类便继承了亚当和夏娃犯下的原罪，变得贪变，自私，暴虐，离天主创造我们的初衷渐行渐远，

天主三位一體的道理屬於信仰的奧秘，人的理智難以完全領悟。不過，這並不阻礙我們活出天主聖三共融、分享和互愛的信仰真理。這就好比：我們在黑夜點燃篝火，看到火苗跳躍、火光明亮，並感受到烈火炙熱，但無法定論火苗、火光和火熱是同一事物，還是三個不同的事物。然而，這並不能阻擋我們手拉著手，圍繞在篝火旁歌唱起舞。保祿宗徒在寫給格林多教會的書信中，以「願主耶穌基督的恩寵、天主的慈愛和聖神的共融，與你們眾人同在」問候信友。今天，我們每次在參與彌撒聖祭時也能聽到這同樣的致候辭。這提醒我們，三位一體的天主就在我們中間，我們該活出聖三共融之恩寵，讓天主臨在我們中間！（摘自我灵赞颂主）

天父深爱世人，派遣祂的圣子耶稣基督降生人间，与人同行；由圣父，圣子所共发的圣神，使世人分享天主的生命。我们因圣三之名受洗，圣神寄居在我们心中。让圣神的活水在我们心中涌流，带领我们战胜各种仇敌，内心的贪婪，自私，骄傲，战胜各种分裂和邪恶力量的攻击。让我们为普世教会，世界，及美国祈求平安，让我们与圣三共融，与主结合。