

## God's Infinite Love

In the First Reading for this Sunday, God appears to Moses and proclaims the name: 'The Lord'. Then He goes on to use the same name twice more when He says to Moses: 'The Lord, The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.' (Ex. 34: 5)

Three times the name "The Lord' is invoked. Isn't it appropriate that this Reading has been chosen for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity because this Sunday we celebrate the great feast of God, the Father, the Lord of all; God, the Son, our Lord and Saviour, and God, the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life?

Today, we are given the opportunity to reflect on all that God has given us out of His infinite love, beginning with Christmas when God gave us His only Son when we were dead in sin...and then proceeding through Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection when Jesus gave Himself for each one of us and fulfilled His promise...and culminating in the Ascension and Pentecost when, through the reciprocal love of the Father and the Son, we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

There we have it. Mankind has experienced the three Persons of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's promise of steadfast love and faithfulness to mankind has been perfected. And yet, we find it so difficult to explain the Holy Trinity. Libraries of books have been written on this central tenet of our Faith.

If we have trouble getting our minds wrapped around this Mystery, consider St. Augustine, the great Doctor of the Church, who spent years writing 15 books on the Trinity without being able to render a thorough explanation. In the end, we should not expect to fully explain the Trinity because, if we could, then it would not be of God because God is infinite and therefore beyond our frail intellect to fully comprehend. In the end, the Holy Trinity is truly a Mystery and we are left in awe.

Have you been to the Rogers Centre to watch a Blue Jays game? To get to your seat, you have to walk through a short tunnel. When you come out of the tunnel, you see the field. It is big. It is bright. It is green. It is greener than green. When you see it for the first time, it takes your breath away.

The Colosseum in Rome is the prototype for modern stadiums so you have to go through a short passageway before seeing the floor of the Colosseum and the areas where the seats used to be. I was standing and taking it all in when a woman came through the passageway. She must have been from the American South because when she first saw the interior of the Colosseum, I overheard her drawl: 'Fo' eva' moa'!' (Forever more). She was awestruck and could think of nothing else to say. She had run out of words.

So it is with the pure awesomeness of God as, out of His steadfast love and faithfulness, He has revealed Himself to us in the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity. We cannot adequately explain God. We find ourselves at a loss for words, like the woman at the Colosseum, limited by the weakness of our human expression.

St. Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church, put it this way: ‘...the Mystery is so sublime and it so exceeds our understanding that we can only bow our heads and adore in silence. In the presence of the unspeakable Mystery of the Holy Trinity, the highest praise is silence, the silence of the soul that adores knowing that it is incapable of praising or glorifying the divine Majesty worthily.’ She went on to say: ‘You have inebriated my soul’ when contemplating the Most Holy Trinity.

Perhaps that lady at the Colosseum had it right when she was faced with something beyond her comprehension. Perhaps ‘forever more’ should be our response when contemplating the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Or, if our words would not be adequate, then maybe it would be best if we simply adored in silence.