

## 9 – 6-7-20 God and S'mores

Kids are naturally inquisitive. Some times their constant questioning about life drives their parents crazy, especially when the parents do not know the answer!

One question that we will never be able to answer fully or understand completely is: *What is God like?* But, we should keep on asking the question.

Jesus, of course, is the fullest revelation of who God is and what God is like. And, Jesus revealed to us that God is a Holy Trinity—three persons in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

OK. But what does that mean? Well, the best we could do is to give analogies, so as to get a “handle” on this truth. St. Patrick is known for his analogy of comparing the Holy Trinity to a shamrock—three leaves on one stem. Another analogy is the three states of H<sub>2</sub>O: liquid (water), solid (ice), vapor (steam).

How about this one? **God is like a s'more.** You know, that wonderful treat made of three different things—chocolate, toasted marshmallow sandwiched between two graham crackers.

The graham cracker part could be likened to God the Father. The chocolate part is God the Son, And, the toasted marshmallow part could be the Holy Spirit. When we put these three things together, we get a trinity of wonderful flavors to satisfy our sweetest taste buds. In regards to our God, when Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united as one, we get the most satisfying treat of all. We get the “Holy Trinity,” and that will satisfy ALL our needs and desires.

This may be a mouth-watering analogy of how to get a grasp on the Holy Trinity, but of course this one, like all others, has its limitation.

Our Catholic catechism (#234) calls the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity the central mystery of our Christian faith and life, because it is the mystery of God in himself. The doctrine of the inner relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in such that each of them is fully and equally God. There are not three Gods but one.

Though we will never fully comprehend the mystery of our God, knowing God is a Holy Trinity teaches us something very important about Him and about us.

First: God does not exist in solitary individualism but in a ***community of love and sharing***. God is not a loner. This means that a Christian in search of God must shun every tendency to isolationism. The ideal Christian spirituality is not that of flight from the world like that of certain other religious traditions. Christianity draws us into communion with others.

Secondly, true love requires three partners. You remember the old saying “Two is company, three is a crowd.” The Trinity shows us that three is community; three is love at its best; three is not a crowd.

We are made in God’s image and likeness. Just as God is God only in a Trinitarian relationship, so we can be fully human only in a relationship of three partners. The human person needs to be in a horizontal relationship with others and a vertical relationship with God. In that way our life becomes Trinitarian like that of God. I am a Christian insofar as I live in a relationship of love with God and other people.