



CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami - Ministry of Christian Formation

May 26, 2013

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Gospel reading John 16:12-15 *[To be read aloud]*

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

Brief commentary:

Today's readings are rich in the language of relationships. Taken from the Old Testament Wisdom text, wisdom is personified as proceeding and relating to God, and as divine gift to those who seek her. Paul's letter speaks of the different ways in which the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each relate to us as the members of Jesus' Church: 'in Jesus we have gained access by faith to God's grace, and in the Holy Spirit God has poured out his love into our hearts'. The gospel reading is taken from the last supper discourse of John, is likewise replete with the language of 'relationality'. Today, Trinity Sunday, we consider the very heart of our Christian faith, who is not merely *something*, but *Someone*. Yet, 'someone' is inherently relational, and the One Absolute Someone (the One God) is inherently relational. The Trinity is not something 'in addition to' God; rather, *the Trinity is the one true living God*. The loving revelation of the three divine persons of the one God is not, however, offered by God for the sole purpose of theological or philosophical inquiry. Far more importantly, that deeply *personal* revelation is itself an invitation to each of us to enter much more intimately into the life of God and so to participate in a more complete relationship with him. Through Jesus Christ, God adopts us as sons and daughters and call us to a bond of the most authentic and complete friendship. Therefore, the revelation of the inner life and depths of God is an entrustment and an invitation to know more deeply the One who knows us through and through, and whose love for us is unfathomable. Every act of a Christian is done in the *Name* of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, from our baptism to our mass and to our prayers. Our lives are lived in relationship with the deep mystery of God's life. Grounded in the earliest affirmations in the scriptures, liturgy and traditions of the Church, as well as in the theological reflection of the Church's theologians and in her Councils, the Church professes that God is a communion of divine persons, each distinct from the other, yet each inseparable from the other and having in full the one indivisible nature of God. The divine persons are *not* three different 'modes' of one divine person, but rather distinct persons. In the communion of mutual and total self-donation the one God lives and loves. Every time we do the sign of the cross with our hands, with holy water, with a crucifix, with our words, as well as when we profess the Creed, we are confessing our Christian faith and are acknowledging that our lives, as well as the whole of Creation, is a gift from the Trinity, is to be lived in communion with the Trinity, and is called to share in the life of the Eternal *One* who *is* Trinity. *Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever! Amen.*

Today's reading offers significant messages:

- Steeped in the language of divine relationships, all three readings express something of the unfathomable Mystery that stands at the depth of all reality, and is the heart and ground of the Christian faith: the Trinity is the one true living God.
- All of Christian life is lived in relation to the one God who is a communion of three distinct Divine Persons, who live and love as the indivisible and full unity of the one Divine Nature. Our lives as Christians and as a Church is the result of the presence, action and grace of the Most Holy Trinity.
- The Trinity is not something peripheral about God or about our Christian faith. It is at the heart of it all. As Christians we should reflect very deeply – with the Scriptures and sources such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* – on the meaning and significance of the Trinity.

For our shared or personal reflection:

After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings.

- How does the revelation of the Trinity affect our lives as Christians and as Church?
- How can I more profoundly understand the work of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit in the history of salvation, in the Church and in my life?
- Do I live aware of my relationship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 232-67