



CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami - Ministry of Christian Formation

May 31, 2015

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Gospel reading Matthew 28:16-20 *[To be read aloud]*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Brief commentary:

Following the Easter season that culminated with the feast of Pentecost, the Church today crowns the season and resumes Ordinary Time, with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. It is as if this is a day in which she sums up her theology, her deepest experiences and beliefs of God, beliefs grounded within the whole of the biblical period and of the biblical witness, but unveiled definitively in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although the idea of the 'spirit' and the 'word' of God are often personified in the Old Testament texts and offer us glimpses into the intuitions about God deeply woven into the theology of biblical Israel, it was in Jesus' teachings and actions, how he related uniquely to God as his personal Father, and his promise and gift of the Spirit, that his disciples and the early Christian communities began to understand that the one true living God is a communion of divine persons. Throughout her early centuries the Church developed her understanding of this deepest living Mystery of divine life, and many times needed to clarify, defend, and articulate the faith she had received from the Apostles. The Trinity is not an "extra" of God, or some "abstract way of talking about" God; rather, the Trinity *is* the one true living God. Yet, as the Catechism aptly states, "Even when God reveals himself, he remains a mystery beyond words." Today's first reading speaks about the uniqueness of Israelite/Jewish theology, and the psalm about the meaning of being called personally by God to become his own. And it wasn't simply that Jews came to experience and belief in 'one' god, but rather that the one true living God of all creation truly reached out and revealed himself to them. The Christian Gospel affirms that in Jesus, God has revealed and given himself to us in the person of his Son, and in the Spirit God is present in the life of each Christian, of each human person. For his part, Paul's expresses the Christian experience of life in the Trinity, a life of relating to God who is the living communion of infinite being and love. We are drawn and enabled by the Spirit to enter into the divine relationships of Father, Son and Spirit. The whole Christian life is a life in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, from our baptism to eternity. May we live authentically, passionately and faithfully as the People of God, the Body of Christ and as the Temple of the Spirit! *Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever! Amen!* (Make sure to read, reflect upon, and be faithful to, the Church's teaching on the Trinity. See the recommended *Catechism* texts below.)

Today's reading offers significant messages:

- The bridge between the Easter season and the continuation of Ordinary Time is the Solemnity that exalts in the origin, sum, and goal of our experience of God in Jesus Christ, an experience of God as the infinite relationship, of communion of divine persons.
- The Trinity *is* the one true living God. The Church articulates this very core of the Christian revelation, but most importantly receives this as the great living Mystery who is none other than God.
- Having been created in the "image" and in the "likeness" of God, human beings are to seek to live in communion with God and with one another. The Church is called to be the sign and instrument of this communion in the world.

For our shared or personal reflection:

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

- How is the Most Holy Trinity the center of my life?
- What can I do to reflect more deeply on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity?
- What does faith in the Most Holy Trinity imply for me, for my parish, for the Church?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 51-53, 232-67