



CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami - Ministry of Christian Formation

May 22, 2016

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:

From our baptism to our liturgies, from our creed to our prayers, from our faith to our daily living, the life of the Christian is lived "in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Although revealed most fully in the life of Jesus, the central Mystery of the Christian faith, the Mystery of the Trinity, the one true living God, was intuited in the Old Testament. The divine Wisdom, who "plays on the surface of the earth and takes delight in the human race," is described in John's prologue as "becoming flesh and dwelling among us" out of love for the human race. Thereby, God's Wisdom, God's Word, God's Son, are one and the same.

In John's gospel, which we have been reading from over the last few Sundays, Jesus, promising the Spirit, describes the Spirit's mission as that of 'guiding' the Church and her members "into all truth." These words of Jesus describe the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit when it comes to how God relates to his Church: "Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that Spirit will take from what is mine and declare it to you." John weaves together in this text the missions of the Father, Son and Spirit with the Christian experience of God and God's grace in Christ. God is a communion of three equal divine Persons, each the one true God, and human beings – indeed all of Creation – is called to participate in that eternal divine communion of infinite life, joy and love. The Trinity is the one God, but the Trinity is also the model for human existence, called to live in communion with our neighbor, particularly the vulnerable. The human person, graced by God in Christ, is called to love as we have been loved by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the infinitely personal life of God "who is love," a love that has created, redeemed and sanctified us.

Today's reading offers significant messages:

- The Wisdom of God and the Spirit of God reach its most explicit revelation in the life of Jesus, 'God's Word made flesh' and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- All that we are and have as God's creation and as God's people results from the communion of the divine persons creating us and calling us to share in the divine life.
- "Even after God reveals himself, God remains a mystery beyond words" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Yet, at the heart of that mystery is an infinite personal love that we can give ourselves to with unreserved abandon.

For our shared or personal reflection:

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

- How has Christian art imagined the Trinity? How is it beneficial and how is it limiting?
- How do I envision God? What images of God have shaped the way I see and relate to God? What is beneficial about these? How are these limiting my relationship with God?
- How am I living 'in the likeness of God'?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 198-267