



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Trinity (C)

June 12, 2022

The Trinity: Our Faith Foundation

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Trinity at first appears as the most abstract belief in Christianity. It touches the mystery of God's nature, how he exists, and how he acts. So, yes, it is mysterious. But as with all foundational truths, they have far-reaching effects. It is essential to grasp the basics because if not, everything you build with them will be faulty. Thus, it is vital to understand and believe in the Trinity. This is a basic building block of all we believe. "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 234).

Sunday Readings

Proverbs 8:22-31

When he established the heavens, there was I.

Romans 5:1-5

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit.

John 16:12-15

[Jesus said,] "When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

One of the earliest councils of bishops with the pope confronted this question of the Trinity. At the Council of Nicaea in the year 325, the bishops discussed what Jesus revealed to us about the Trinity. The fruit of their meetings nearly 1,700 years ago is the Nicene Creed that we still pray today.

The three divine persons are one and the same in their divine nature, but different in their actions. God the Father Almighty is Creator of heaven and earth. Jesus Christ is the Word through whom the Father created all things and the Savior he sent into the world. The Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and Son who is sent to sanctify humanity by leading people in the truth revealed by the Father and Son. God is the Creator, Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit is Sanctifier and Teacher. Three divine persons with different missions, but one God. +

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God in three persons.*

A Word from Pope Francis

[T]his is faith: to welcome God-Love; to welcome this God-Love who gives himself in Christ, who moves us in the Holy Spirit; to let ourselves be encountered by him and to trust in him. This is Christian life. To love, to encounter God, to seek God; and He seeks us first; He encounters us first.

—Angelus, June 7, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- When confronted with something I don't understand am I willing to learn more?
- Do I give thanks for the vastness of the universe?

The Joy of Christian Morality

By Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSSR

When I was a professor of moral theology, my job was to train future moral theologians. I wanted to ensure my students had a clear sense of purpose and honorable motives. To accomplish this, I regularly posed two questions: “What is the purpose of the Church’s moral teaching?” And: “Why do you want to study moral theology?”



Church’s moral teaching is either the starting point or the essence of our religion. But the real purpose of moral teaching is to aid the faithful. It is directed primarily to those who already believe. If one has not yet found God and experienced the mercy, love, and forgiveness of Christ and does not

accept and appreciate the basic insights of the faith out of which moral teaching flows, then the Church’s concrete moral teachings will make little sense and will not find fertile ground in which to take root and bear fruit.

For those who reject faith experience as a reliable source of knowledge, Church moral teachings about war, peace, social justice, the economy, birth control, sexual behavior, poverty, hunger relief, etc., may be perceived as naïve and impractical. But for the Catholic faithful, Church teaching is the reliable and inspired wisdom of 2,000 years of lived, shared, and prayed faith experience.

The magisterium proclaims the gospel in order to lead all people to Christ so they can be reconciled to God. Moral teaching forms part of the ministry of evangelization. It is a proclamation of good news—a hopeful message about who we can become if we accept the gift of salvation that enables us to live in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

It’s important to note that Church moral teaching is different and broader in scope than simple ethics. The magisterium and its theologians use the insights of philosophical ethics and human sciences as tools of human reason. But the Church teaching is the fruit of both scientific and theological

investigation into the nature and place of morality in the life of the believer.

The Catholic Church firmly believes that religious experience adds to the knowledge required to understand what a moral life is. It provides us the strength of God’s grace and enables us to actually choose and live what we know to be moral. This is why our Church teaches about faith and morals together. Morality flows out of and back into faith. Our faith reveals the deeper purpose of morality, orients our use of freedom as children of God, and empowers us to live authentically good lives. When understood and concretely lived in this way, the purpose of the Church’s moral teaching is to help us put into practice what we believe about God, ourselves, and the meaning of life. +

Church teaching is the inspired wisdom of 2,000 years of faith experience.

PRAYER

God of mystery, you sent your Son and together with him in mutual love, the Holy Spirit. May we praise and honor you always by saying: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

—From *Celebrating the Gospels: A Guide for Parents and Teachers* by Gaynell Cronin

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 13–18

Monday, St. Anthony of Padua:

1 Kgs 21:1–16 / Mt 5:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 21:17–29 / Mt 5:43–48

Wednesday, Weekday:

2 Kgs 2:1, 6–14 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday, Weekday:

Sir 48:1–14 / Mt 6:7–15

Friday, Weekday:

2 Kgs 11:1–4, 9–18, 20 / Mt 6:19–23

Saturday, Weekday:

2 Chr 24:17–25 / Mt 6:24–34

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