



# Bringing Home the Word †

*The Most Holy Trinity (A)*

June 4, 2023

## Three in One, or One in Three?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

When we limit our reflection on the Trinity to numbers, our thinking takes us far from the reality of God. The characterizations of an old man, a younger man, and a dove do not help much, either. However, these are attempts to somehow talk about the mystery of all mysteries. We cannot adequately conceptualize or characterize God, but we try. Each reading today makes its own attempt.

## Sunday Readings

**Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9**

[Moses said,] “Pardon our wickedness and sins, and claim us as your own.”

**2 Corinthians 13:11–13**

Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

**John 3:16–18**

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

In the Exodus passage, God actually describes God’s own self: “gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity” (Exodus 34:6). The Gospel passage tells us how these divine features play out in our lives: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). This Son is God in the flesh. What greater love can there be? The prayer in Paul’s letter seems to scoop us up like an adoring parent would into the embrace of the Trinity: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you” (2 Corinthians 13:13).

Theologians say each person of the Trinity interacts with us in a way unique to each person. Though different, each way is an expression of self-emptying love. The only response required of us is openness to that love. God only asks that we accept that love and allow it to transform us. Then we will be the living example of the Trinity’s love for all. †

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## A Word from Pope Francis

The Trinity is...Love, wholly at the service of the world, which He wishes to save and re-create. And today, thinking of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we think of God’s love! And it would be beautiful if we felt that we were loved: “God loves me!” This is today’s sentiment.

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REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS  
REFLECTION

- Which person of the Trinity do I most easily relate to—the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- Why?

# The Fresh Idea of the Most Holy Trinity

Paige Byrne Shortal



Here's a bit of wisdom from Beth Gutcheon's novel *The New Girls*: "The real challenge in a changing world is not to recognize the outmoded, but to preserve that which remains valid."

The desire to throw out the old and embrace the new is not unique to any culture or generation. The difference today is that the new becomes old so fast.

A few years ago I interviewed a bride about the music she wanted at her wedding. She said she just wanted "traditional music." Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to ask her what she thought of as "traditional." "Oh, you know," she replied, "like *Glory and Praise to Our God* and *One Bread, One Body*."

As the composers of these songs were my friends and I had sung on the album that introduced their music to the public, I suddenly felt old. (By the way, "albums" were like big CDs and you could play both sides.)

Is the Most Holy Trinity an outmoded idea? Arius thought so. He was a fourth-century theologian who denied the divinity of Christ and therefore the idea of the Trinity. He was also a talented musician and wrote clever songs with lyrics that proclaimed "there was a time when the Son was not." This may not sound too catchy to the modern ear, but thousands of Christians began to sing these songs, and St. Athanasius and St. John Chrysostom wrote other hymns to counter the effect of Arius' heretical proclamations.

In the liturgy we proclaim that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons in one Godhead. It's a difficult idea to grasp, and great minds have wrestled with it for centuries, but the doctrine is preserved in how we pray. Our prayer is always offered to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit, or in other words, it is God within us (Spirit) talking through God (the Son) to God (the Father/Creator). †

## Ways to Honor the Trinity

Fr. Leonard Foley, OFM

1. Embrace the greatest commandment: love the triune God "with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Mt 22:37), and the second most important commandment, to "love your neighbor as yourself" (22:39).
2. Say the Trinitarian prayer often: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit..."
3. Honor God the Father by our generosity, imitating the First Person's self-communicating love: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16).
4. Honor God the Son by imitating the healing and evangelizing ministry of Jesus, who was God's missionary.
5. Honor God the Holy Spirit by seeking to build up God's kingdom and witnessing to Jesus' saving love wherever we go: "When the holy Spirit comes upon you, ...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). †



*God of all—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—inspire us to live in loving relationship with each other that the world may know peace and harmony, we pray. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

**The doctrine of the Trinity is preserved in the way that we pray. We offer prayers to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.**

## WEEKDAY READINGS

June 5–10

### Monday, St. Boniface:

Tb 1:3; 2:1b–8 / Mk 12:1–12

### Tuesday, Weekday:

Tb 2:9–14 / Mk 12:13–17

### Wednesday, Weekday:

Tb 3:1–11a, 16–17a / Mk 12:18–27

### Thursday, Weekday:

Tb 6:10–11; 7:1bcde, 9–17; 8:4–9a / Mk 12:28–34

### Friday, Weekday:

Tb 11:5–17 / Mk 12:35–37

### Saturday, Weekday:

Tb 12:1, 5–15, 20 / Mk 12:38–44

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