FATHER MARK SCHULTE HOMILY MOST HOLY TRINITY (C) June 15, 2025

"Three Persons, One God"

Brothers and Sisters, it is fitting that the Church reflect upon the nature of the triune Godhead following the Ascension of the Messiah Jesus Christ into heaven and His subsequent sending of the Holy Spirit upon His Church. The trifold mission of the Godhead is now complete. God the Father in Heaven has created the universe and all that is in it. He has sent His Son the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, to redeem humanity, and the Son has sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to teach and sanctify His bride the Church. Now all that remains is for Jesus to return in glory to judge the world (Prov 8:22-31, Jn 16:12-15, Rom 5:1-5).

Our God has revealed Himself as a Triune God, a trinity of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and today His Church honors him, as the Holy Trinity. There are many sublime mysteries associated with Christianity but central to them all is the nature of God. The Trinity and other mysteries that are unexplainable by man serve to prevent man from thinking that he is God, an act of pride that the devil succumbed to as well. God is a trinity of persons. He has revealed Himself as such to His people over time from the very beginning of creation. We know this from His divinely inspired scriptures. In the first lines of Genesis we read: V1) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...... V2) and the Spirit of God (wind) was moving over the face of the waters. V3) and God said let there be light, etc. All three persons are present at the beginning of creation. The Father creates through His Son the spoken "Word", while His spirit is present in the wind (CCC 238-248, 684, 732).

Throughout the Old Testament God's people will primarily know Him as the creator God and the giver of the law. In the fullness of time God the Father will reveal Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. This will be announced by the angel Gabriel in the Gospel of Luke (Lk 1:26-38). Later the Apostle John will say in his Gospel, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God.... V14 and the word became flesh and dwelt among us." Here John describes God the Father, and His Son the Word, Jesus Christ (Jn 1:1-5). Jesus will later say, "The Father and I are one" and "when you see me, you see the Father" (Jn 10:30, 14:9). Soon God the Holy Spirit will be revealed at the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus, while standing in the waters of the Jordan, all heard the voice of God the Father say, "This is my beloved Son of whom I am well pleased," while the Spirit of God descended like a dove on Jesus (Mt 3:13-17). This is the first time that all three Divine persons are presented specifically in the Gospel: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 536, 701).

Sometime later Jesus will be with Peter, James, and John on the mountain. Jesus will be transfigured into His glorified state, the voice of the Father will be heard once again testifying to Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit will be present in the form of a cloud (Mt 17:1-25, CCC 554-555).

The Holy Catholic Church, the one Church that Jesus established solemnly testifies to the Holy Trinity in her Nicene Creed, which is proclaimed at every Sunday Mass (CCC 195). This serves to remind the faithful of just exactly who it is that they worship. The spiritual life of believers is immersed in the life of the trinitarian Godhead. All of our prayers begin and end with the proclamation of the Trinity when we make the sign of the cross in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1235). This is especially the case when we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The sacrifice of the Son, Jesus Christ, is offered to God the Father through the Holy Spirit. The priest will make this solemn proclamation as he elevates the Holy Eucharist and says: "Through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father for ever and ever, Amen."

In the Gospel, Jesus will affirm: "The Father and I are one" and "I will send to you the paraclete." The paraclete is the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16, CCC 692).

God the Father sends His son to redeem us. Jesus the Son sends the Holy Spirit to us to sanctify and teach us. Thus, the entire life of the Christian is immersed in God as three distinct persons. The entire Godhead resides within the person who has faith in Him. And where God dwells, His kingdom dwells. Thus, the Kingdom of God is in you. In each believer.

The task of the Christian is to draw closer and closer to God while on this earth. And then to finally be with Him forever in heaven. We are in God and God is in us. Such is God's infinite love for us. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is our ultimate expression of our love for God. Let us participate in the mass well, and in doing so give glory to our Trinitarian God.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church