

Trinity Sunday '16

**Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.**

Trinity has long been described as the dancing of all creation

History

The word, "*Trinity*," was first used by Tertullian in 170 AD. The Council of Nicaea *defined* the dogma in 325. It was a bitterly contested struggle, during which the priest, Arius, got up to speak and Nicholas of Myra punched him in the nose.

There has been an ongoing disagreement about the Trinity between Western and Eastern Churches since the Council of Chalcedon in 589. Mobs of people took to the streets in Rome about this to demonstrate for their favorite formulation. This helped lead to a schism between the East and West in 1054, which still exists today.

Understanding Trinity with the Mind

Let us remember that the best we can do is say the least wrong thing about God

One way to seek to understand Trinity is to remember that Trinity cannot be studied as an object - like a tree; Trinity can only be contemplated through participation. The terms, Father and Son, embody Perfect-Loving and Perfect-Receiving, and Spirit is the Relationship, the Connection, the Bond in-between. Trinity is the inter-communing, interacting energy among all being throughout the entire universe. Science is verifying this. Trinity is the inter-acting energy of the cosmos.

Participating in this dance liberates our minds from being jerked around by our passing emotions, not letting our feelings own us. Jesus learned this. The fear and despair and alienation he felt in his passion were a part of the dance, because he walked through them into his rising without a negative, resentful and critical mind. And so it is with us. The fear and despair and alienation we sometimes feel become part of the dance when we walk through them into our rising without a negative, resentful and critical mind.

Understanding Trinity through the Heart

Let us remember that the best we can do is say the least wrong thing about God

*I do not pierce God, God pierces me
I do not think, I am thought
I do not know, I am known
I do not pray, I am prayed*

I see now that the eyes through which I see God are the eyes through which God sees me. M. Eckhart

*I rejoiced with you during the day and didn't know it.
I slept with you at night and didn't know it,
I thought I was myself but I was you, and didn't know it. Rumi*

*Be like the bird pausing in her flight on boughs too slight, feeling them give way beneath her.
And yet she sings knowing she has wings. Victor Hugo*

*You that love lovers, this is your home. Welcome! Watch the dust
grains moving in the light. Their dance is our dance. Lovers don't
finally meet somewhere. They are in each other all along.*

*Ah! Gentle night and so loving, you wake within me, proving that you are there;
your fragrant breathing stills me, your grace, your glory fills me so tenderly, your
love becomes my own.*

*Eternal One, you are the silence from whom my words come; you are the one from whom my
questions come; you are the one from whom my loves arise; you are the one in whom I find
myself.*

Understanding Trinity through Story

Let us remember that the best we can do is say the least wrong thing about God

This is one from the Jesuit Newsletter, *Jesuit News*, May 6, 2016 titled: “*Jesuit Fr Greg Boyle named Humanitarian of the Year.*” It reads:

“Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, founder and director of the gang intervention program, Homeboy Industries, has received the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the James Beard Foundation for his work in improving the lives of others and society at large. Father Boyle did just that with the launch of Homeboy Bakery in 1992, where former rival gang members work side-by-side and learn both business and baking skills.

“*I am honored and humbled by this recognition,*” Father Boyle said, “*but also heartened because it is acknowledges as well a community on the margins that has long been demonized. This award, then, imagines a circle of compassion outside of which no one is left standing.*”

Father Boyle began serving as a pastor at Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles in 1986, at the time the poorest Catholic Parish in the city, located in the territory of numerous rival gangs. The experience of Dolores Mission inspired him to start Homeboy Bakery nearby. It's success lead to additional enterprises with the Homeboy brand, including Homegirl Café and Catering,

Homeboy Diner in Los Angeles City Hall, and a retail presence at farmers' markets throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Homeboy Industries is now the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and reentry program in the world, helping more than 10,000 former gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women each year. The award says, '*We are honor Fr. Boyle who has impacted the lives of so many people and will continue to inspire our community for decades to come*'."

**Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.**

*Let us remember that when we try to understand Trinity,
we are trying to understand ourselves;
when we celebrate Trinity, we are celebrating ourselves.*

So Happy Feast of Trinity, everyone!