

Homily: Trinity Sunday 2022: Cycle C: Prov 8: 22-31; Ps 8; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16: 12-15
“*Growing in Knowledge, Love, and Personal Communion with the Blessed Trinity*”

Our belief in the most Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit is **THE FOUNDATION** of everything else we believe as Catholics, but it can seem like an abstraction if we are not careful. How can we take our belief in the most blessed Trinity and bring it into everyday life?

1. We know by God’s Revelation thru the Scriptures and the Church that we human beings are made in God’s image: in our *memory*, in our *intellect*, in our *will* and in our *heart*, and now even in our physical nature or *bodies* because the Second Person of the Trinity took on our human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. But it is not enough to be created in the **image** of God, which is a wonderful thing, but we must also grow in his **likeness**, which is what the call to holiness is: *to become more and more like God in all that we say, and think, and do.* St. Paul today tells us this occurs primarily through **the mystery of the Cross**: “... *we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*” St. Paul is saying, if we want to know the Trinity in daily life, we need to pray for **a greater love of the Cross**, and for the grace to consciously unite all our daily sufferings and struggles with Jesus, so they become redemptive in Him and help us and those we offer them for to grow in holiness, e.g., offering our daily sufferings for hardened sinners and the souls in Purgatory.
2. A second way to come to know the Trinity in daily life is to pray for the grace to abandon ourselves to God’s all encompassing providential care. **God’s Providence** means *His guidance and direction of the entire process of history as a whole, as well as His guidance and direction in our individual lives - without canceling out the gift of human freedom.* How this all works is **one of the mysteries of the universe**, but it is true nonetheless, as Jesus says in the Gospel, the Father cares about each one of us so much that He even knows “*the number of*

hairs on our head,” God is interested in the minute details of our lives, not because he is nosey, but because He loves us; and true love is always concerned about the details of the other person, even the smallest things. Abandoning ourselves to God’s Providential care means that we are willing to **TRUST HIM** and be willing to live a life of humble obedience to His will manifested to us human beings **through the daily circumstances of life** and **through the Catholic Faith** guided by the Holy Spirit who will lead us into all Truth as Jesus tells us today in the Gospel. After all, the Trinity’s goal in guiding us is to lead us to ultimate fulfillment and eternal bliss in union with them- the greatest gift of all!

3. Finally we can come **to know the Trinity** on a daily basis by practicing the interior discipline of calling to mind the reality of **the Divine Indwelling** (or *the Fire Within* as Fr. Thomas Dubay calls it in his classic spiritual book of the same title) in our souls throughout the day; which is a divine reality: 1. from the moment of our **Baptism**, and 2. if we are not conscious of **mortal sin** (*a serious violation of God’s Commandments - ask me if you have questions about this, esp. in Confession*) which is the ONLY thing that can drive the presence of the Trinity away - until we repent and are forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession. Also every time we receive **3. Holy Communion** with faith and devotion, and not in the state of mortal sin, we grow in our union with the Trinity because *where Jesus is, so also is the Father and the Holy Spirit.* Truly by entering into the mystery of the Cross by uniting our daily sufferings with Jesus, by abandoning ourselves to Divine Providence, and by calling to mind the Divine Indwelling of the Trinity in our souls by sanctifying grace, on a daily basis, as well as avoiding mortal sin and receiving Holy Communion in the state of grace with great faith, we come to personally know the Trinity in love. Then our belief in the Holy Trinity is no longer is an abstraction, but in truth the most profound reality of our life on earth. May all of us come to know the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on a deeper level, in grace, for as St. Paul beautifully said, it will lead to a joy beyond our imagining for, *“eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it dawned on the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him”* (1 Corth 2: 9). God bless you.