

The Most Holy Trinity
Homily – May 30, 2010

Rev. Andrew A. Czajkowski
St. John the Evangelist Parish
Davison, Michigan

Have you noticed that life is full of difficult questions? There are many things in life we do not understand! Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday. Today is the day we celebrate the reality of God in Three Persons: “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Now how do you explain the Trinity? Even the finest scholars find themselves at a loss to explain it satisfactorily. Some use the analogy of masks worn by actors in the old Greek tragedies. One actor wearing many masks can play many parts; but it is still one actor. Others have used the analogy of water. Under normal conditions, water (H₂O) is a liquid; but freeze it and it becomes a solid; heat it and it becomes steam. It is still H₂O, whatever form it takes, but it can have three radically different forms. Still others have used the analogy of roles and relationships. A man can be at the same time a father, a son, a husband, a nephew, and so on. One man has many roles.

These are not perfect analogies, but they are the best we can do with the minds God has given us.

One of the most prominent Christians who ever lived was a man we now know as St. Augustine. Augustine was converted to Christianity in 386 A.D. by the writings and sermons of Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan. Then, years later, Augustine became a bishop himself and served at Hippo on the coast of northern Africa in the area that we now call Algeria.

It is said that one day Augustine was walking along the seashore pondering how God could be one and yet three. Suddenly, he stopped and watched a child who was carrying a cup of ocean water to a small hole he had dug in the sand. “What are you doing?” asked Augustine. The child replied, “I’m trying to pour the ocean into this hole.” The bishop laughed and said, “That’s impossible.” The child looked him in the eyes and said, “It is no more impossible that for you to put almighty God into your small mind.”

And it's true. The Trinity is one of those many things about life and faith that you and I will never understand.

Yes, life is full of many difficult questions, not only about lofty doctrine like the Trinity, but more real questions: Why do good people suffer? Why is life sometimes so unfair? What is the purpose of aging? Why does not God make faith a little easier? There is much that none of us can understand. As we face these questions, and many more, we need to recall an ancient Chinese proverb:

*The bird does not sing because he has an answer.
He sings because he has a song.*

- ❖ I may not be able to understand the mystery of God in Three Persons, but I can enjoy the incredible beauty of God the Creator.
- ❖ I may not be able to understand how *the Bethlehem's Babe can in Godhead be*, as the song says, but I can read with awe the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and imitate them.
- ❖ I may not understand all there is to understand about the Comforter that he said he would send us, but there have been many times when that Comforter, the Holy Spirit, has enveloped me with love.
- ❖ I don't have to understand God in Three Persons in order to experience the grandeur of what these Three Persons can mean in my life.

I do know that one day everything will be revealed. St. Paul wrote, "*Now we see through a glass, darkly, but then we will see face to face...*" I invite you to look forward with me to that day. I look forward to having some of the pieces of the puzzle put into place.

C. S. Lewis once said that the most frequently spoken word in heaven would be "Oh!" as in: "Oh, now I understand," or "Oh, now I see what was God's plan," or "Oh, now I see the reasons for the trial I went through."

We do not have that luxury in this world. We walk by faith, not by sight. But one day it will be revealed to us. We will be in the presence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

How can we be in the presence of all three at the same time? It beats me!

There are some answers that are too large for our little brains to contain. But our greatest need is to trust that God is with us and will be with us until that day comes when all will be revealed.

