



**A Message from our Pastor,
Fr Regulo Imperial:
June 7, 2020**

Dear Parishioners:

Greetings of Peace!

Today we celebrate the feast of the **Most Holy Trinity**. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #234, *“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. All of that is declared every time we sign ourselves, saying ‘In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.’”*

The well-known story of St Augustine runs this way: One day while walking along the seashore, pondering the Trinity, Augustine encountered a boy pouring ocean water into a hole in the sand. The boy explained: *“I am going to put the entire ocean into this hole.”* St Augustine told him that it was impossible. The hole in the sand was too small to contain all of the vast ocean. Surprisingly the boy replied, *“And neither can you fit the Trinity into your little brain.”*

God is totally, absolutely Mystery. And that does not mean simply mysterious or vague, something that is not yet known but will become clear. No. Mystery means, by definition, essentially unknowable. Even when we are in heaven, face to face with God in the Beatific Vision, God will remain Holy Mystery. But we won't mind, because then we will appreciate just what Holy Mystery is.

Within the Holy Mystery, inside God's self, God is community of relationships. We call them Father, Son and Spirit for convenience. But they are not independent, autonomous persons. They absolutely depend on each other in their God-ness, and they are infinitely equal. The Father is not older and wiser than the Son; the Spirit is not some vague aura of the Father. Individuality and trinity are simultaneously eternal. That precisely is the Holy Mystery.

Is your head hurting yet? It should be, because we are talking about the unknowable Mystery, not your transparent Uncle Ed. As St Thomas warned: *“The greatest thing we can know about God is that we cannot know God.”* And centuries before that, St Augustine said: *“If you understand it, it is not God.”*

Outside God's self, when God relates with reality other than God's own essence, the Holy Mystery unfolds to us in two directions: transcendence and immanence - in colloquial terms, really far away and really close up. Though they sound contradictory and impossible to be joined, they actually are two sides of the very same Mystery. *(Taken from Fr Smith).*

If you are asked: *“Well, you are a Catholic; you believe in the Trinity. What is it all about?”* Don't go into long philosophical or theological discussions. Say: *“It's about me and it's about God, and it's about relationship.”* It's about support and cooperation and unity among the parish community. It's about love in the family. After all we are all created for love, we are all created for relationship.

Pope Francis has this to say about the Trinity: *“Jesus is the Son who made us know the merciful Father and brought to the world his ‘fire’, the Holy Spirit.”*

HAPPY “TRINITY” EVERYONE!

Fr. Regulo Imperial, Pastor