



# Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Trinity | May 27, 2018

## Adopted by God

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When I was a young girl, I used to imagine I was adopted. This had nothing to do with loving my parents and family, which I did. I think it was one of the many steps in dealing with the life questions of “who am I” and “who do I belong to?”

Later in my life, I met people who were actually adopted, and one said the experience of being adopted gave him a much clearer sense of belonging than I knew. “Someone chose me,” he said. “A family wanted me to belong to them, and they wanted to belong to me.”

## Sunday Readings

### Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

[Moses said,] “You must keep his statutes and commandments.”

### Romans 8:14–17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

### Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.”

Whenever I read today’s section of Paul’s Letter to the Romans, I remember my friend and my own wondering. The questions of who we are and whose we are don’t go away as we get into adulthood. New schools, new jobs, and new family situations bring those questions into our minds, sometimes with a force that surprises us.

There are times we feel as if we have lost ourselves and lost our way. On other occasions, we might feel alone. When those moments come, all we can do is trust that someone does love us and calls us to be our best selves.

In his letter, Paul reminds us who we are—the adopted children of God—and in the process he also reminds us whose we are. We belong to God, and we are grounded in this reality by our baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God, in his being, is a love relationship. Is it any wonder that our belonging grounds us in the dark times and gives us joy in the others? Is there anything else we need to know? +

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does love us and calls us  
to be our best selves.***

## A Word From Pope Francis

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity invites us to commit ourselves in daily events to being leaven of communion, consolation, and mercy. In this mission, we are sustained by the strength that the Holy Spirit gives us: he takes care of the flesh of humanity, wounded by injustice, oppression, hate, and avarice.

—Angelus,  
May 22, 2016



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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- Each person of the Trinity has a mission: The Father creates, the Son saves, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies. Do I thank each for each one’s gift?
- Do I allow the Lord’s holy breath to fill me with the Holy Spirit?



# The Gift of God's Name

By Kathy Coffey

*Second Commandment: "You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain" (Exodus 20:7).*

If we see this commandment merely as a warning, "Don't swear," we miss its richness. Most people could name greater evils than the occasional curse when we're angry or frustrated. So we wrongly dismiss the commandment as a quaint relic of more polite times.

Numerous law codes preceded Israel's. What makes the Ten Commandments distinct and so enduring that they set standards for people centuries later, all around the world? Among Israel's neighbors, the divine name was often used in curses or magical formulas. In ancient Egypt, some believed that invoking the name of God was an effective weapon.

We may smile at the primitive notion—until we remember how many modern wars have been fought in God's name. Both sides of a conflict create God in their own image, then invoke God's power to destroy the enemy. They forget that all humans are God's beloved children, carefully crafted and intimately known. Killing even one human, regardless of the "righteous" cause, is an affront to God.

## Strangers No More

Think of those we call "Sir" or "Ma'am." Clearly they are strangers. We may want to call attention to a dropped wallet or a task we want done. The emphasis is on the transaction, not the personal

relationship. If, over time, "Sir" and "Ma'am" become "Steve" and "Molly," it signals a shift: The stranger has become an acquaintance or friend. Calling someone by name commands the person's attention.

By revealing God's name, God steps off the Distant Deity pedestal and comes close enough for friendship. Knowing God's name is a gift we shouldn't take lightly. It means that God is involved at the most intimate level of our daily life.

What is true for God is also true for humans. "God calls each one by name. Everyone's name is sacred" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2158). Throughout the Bible, a name contains God's dream for the person. When Abram and Sarai's names changed, their identity shifted. Abraham and Sarah were fuller, better people, confident that God was with them.

In the same way, God reassures us with words that bring confidence in the worst circumstances: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). In the New Testament, Jesus knows us intimately, by name. "Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name..." (John 10:2-3). When Jesus calls Mary's name in the garden after his resurrection, it is the pivotal turning point in history. Before then, no one had risen from death.

## Revering God's Creation

The *Catechism* says the Second Commandment includes blaspheming against places or people holy to God. Such a wise guideline establishes an attitude of reverence for all creation, made by God's hand and blessed by God's care. When we destroy forests, pollute air and water, or ignore environmental safeguards, we show grave disrespect for God's holy works. And when we malign God's beloved creatures, we slur God's holy name.

Remember someone calling your name softly, with depth and affection? Or your name being announced as an award winner? Or a beloved voice speaking your name on the phone? We should weave those warm associations around the name of God, who calls our names with love. Knowing that, how could we blaspheme God—or each other? +



Lord, you command me to love all people. Remove the prejudice that keeps me from loving my brothers and sisters.

*From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost,*

Rev. Warren J. Savage  
and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 28–June 2, 2018

Monday, Weekday:  
1 Pt 1:3–9 / Mk 10:17–27

Tuesday, Weekday:  
1 Pt 1:10–16 / Mk 10:28–31

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:  
1 Pt 1:18–25 / Mk 10:32–45

Thursday, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:  
Zep 3:14–18a or Rom 12:9–16 / Lk 1:39–56

Friday, Weekday:  
St. Justin: 1 Pt 4:7–13 / Mk 11:11–26

Saturday, Weekday:  
Jude 17, 20b–25 / Mk 11:27–33