



Bringing Home the Word

The Most Holy Trinity | June 11, 2017

God Simply Is

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When I was a child, the mystery of a God who is three in one was explained by that commonly used (if somewhat inaccurate) symbol, a three-leaf clover. Since then, many people have attempted to put the reality of Trinity into words that try to explain: Lover, Beloved, Love Outpoured or Source, Wellspring, and Fountain, as well as the more common expression of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Sunday Readings

Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9

“The LORD, the LORD, a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity, continuing his love for a thousand generations....”

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.”

John 3:16–18

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

Still another approach is to stand in front of a mirror and see yourself as someone’s child, someone’s parent, and someone’s spouse all at the same time—and yet see one person standing there.

These examples begin to tell us something of the Trinitarian mystery, but they cannot contain the whole of it. God simply is, and the closest we can come to God’s essence is to talk about God’s relationship in and of God’s self.

But words have their limits. Is there something in our own experience where God reveals a little of this mystery? Why is it that we reach out for others, yearn for love, or seek God in prayer?

Genesis tells us we’re created in God’s image. If God is relational; then we must be as well. We are created to be in relationship, to know ourselves as connected. The New Testament is filled with that language: Jesus is our brother; we are adopted children of God. We are to love one another as God loves us. We are to become one in God.

In the experience of love and connectedness and in the experience of being part of God’s family, we will come to know the mystery of God a little more clearly.

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

2 Corinthians 13:11

A Word From Pope Francis

The Father creates...the world; Jesus saves us; and the Holy Spirit? He loves us! And this is Christian life: talking to the Father, talking to the Son, and talking to the Holy Spirit....Let us...ask Our Lady...to teach us to understand properly what God is like: what the Father is like, what the Son is like, and was the Holy Spirit is like.

—Homily, the
Solemnity of the
Most Holy Trinity
May 26, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Which person of the Trinity do I most easily relate to—the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- Which person do I want to have a better relationship with?



Called to the Banquet

By Richard Rohr, OFM

God does not love us because we deserve it. God loves us because we need it.

Does that sound startling? It shouldn't. If there is one prime idea in the Bible, it is God's undeserved lot for what God has created.

There is no accounting for God's love. God's love is not earned. There is nothing we can do to attain it or even to lose it. All we can do is surrender to it, trust it and let it flow through us.

The significant difference in this world

is not between those who are worthy of God's love and those who are unworthy. (In truth, we are all various degrees of unworthy.) The significant difference is between those who know and enjoy God's love and those who do not know and do not enjoy it. God does not love us because we are good. We are good because God loves us. That is a major transformation of consciousness! It moves us from life as an obstacle course to be endured to life as a banquet to be eaten and shared.

Throughout the Gospels we see

Jesus constantly invoking this banquet symbolism. He eats with sinners, invites the outcasts to share a meal with him, does not wash his hands or his food, allows a woman at a male symposium meal, apparently gives "communion" to Judas on the night of his betrayal. He is always expanding the meaning of the table, even breaking clear social conventions, to communicate the hospitality and inclusivity of God.

If we are grateful for and deeply confident in God's grace, we will spend our lives trying to give back to others what has been so graciously given to us.

Source: *Everyday Catholic*,
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St. Anthony, Wonder Worker

By Judy Ball

Who of us hasn't turned to St. Anthony of Padua (1195–1231) in a moment of panic when we've been desperate to find a job, have misplaced a precious memento or feared our credit card has been stolen?

We could just as well turn to this beloved saint for any number of reasons. Anthony is also revered as a devoted friend of the poor. He is known as the Wonder Worker because of the many miracles that have occurred at his tomb. He is the patron of travelers, of lovers, and of marriage. He is called upon as a helper at the time of birth and in instances of infertility.

Born into a prominent family in Lisbon, Anthony heard the call to religious life early. He spent some years with the Augustinians, but over time he developed a desire to become a missionary and preach the gospel in Morocco.

He received permission to join the Franciscans and, soon after, set sail. Ill health forced him to turn back, but the ship was blown off course. It landed in Sicily, where the friars nursed him back to health and he immersed himself in Franciscan life. Saint Francis of Assisi entrusted Anthony, a Scripture scholar, with the task of teaching theology to young friars.

He gained fame as a preacher in Padua and far beyond. Thousands would gather to hear him speak in public plazas and open fields. Anthony was especially drawn to preaching the gospel among

heretics. His eloquence turned heads; his authenticity touched hearts.

Whenever possible, Anthony found refuge in prayer and solitude. Toward the end of his life, a tree hut was fashioned for him near Padua. He died at 36, exhausted from his laborious preaching. His feast day is June 13.

Source: *Everyday Catholic*,
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Lord, you live in communion with God and the Holy Spirit. Help me to live in communion and peace with all people.

From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 12–17

Mon. Weekday:
2 Cor 1:1–7 / Mt 5:1–12
Tue. St. Anthony of Padua:
2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16
Wed. Weekday:
2 Cor 3:4–11 / Mt 5:17–19

Thu. Weekday:
2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26
Fri. Weekday:
2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 5:27–32
Sat. Weekday:
2 Cor 5:14–21 / Mt 5:33–37