



## YEAR B – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY - 2018

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. As I have said each year on this feast day, it is one of the most profound mysteries of our faith. If God had not revealed the existence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we could not begin to imagine what the nature of God is like.

When I was in the seminary, we had a whole semester on the Trinity. It was called “De Deo Uno et Trino” - . the Oneness and the Threeness of God. At the end of the semester the professor would ask the class, “Who now understands the Trinity?”. All the guys who raised their hands were told they failed the course. When all is said and done, the Trinity remains a mystery even after the best of human minds tries to explain it. We know *that* the Trinity is, but we don't know *how* the Trinity is. St. Augustine, one of the great minds of the Church, simply says, “When you think you know God, you don't.”

Given that as a starting point, there are some things we can say about the Trinity. The Trinity is not a mathematical problem. It's not a matter of how three equals one or how one equals three. That is simply impossible.

Scholastic philosophers make a distinction between person and nature. When you ask the question WHO, the answer is a person. When you ask the question WHAT that answer is the nature of a thing. Person and nature are not the same thing. When they speak about the Trinity, they say there are three persons in one nature. For them, it's not a question of how three equals one or how one equals three.

Consider how they apply those two questions to the Holy Trinity. Who is the Trinity, The Trinity is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; three persons, three separate and distinct persons. What is the Trinity? The Trinity is God, one God - one nature. So it's not three persons in one person, or three natures in one nature but three persons in one nature.

If you would like to read in greater depth about the Trinity and other mysteries of our faith, there is a marvelous book by Frank Sheed called “Theology and Sanity”. In that book, Sheed explains what we can know and what we cannot know about the nature of God.

If you prefer a different approach to the mystery of the Trinity, the most recent book by Father Richard Rohr, called “The Divine Dance” will take you on a contemplative journey with him and God. Father Rohr considers it his best book.

If you don't have time for either book, please take time to reflect on what you believe about the Trinity. What do you believe about the God above us (our Father, Abba), the God beside us (our Savior, Jesus) and the God within us (the Holy Spirit).

Is the Trinity a part of your life here on earth?

