FR. GARY'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year, the Sunday after Pentecost is designated Trinity Sunday. The feast was established universally in the Church in the year 1334 AD but had been celebrated in local parts of the Church from early centuries. The effort to designate a day affirming the dogma of the Holy Trinity was initially prompted in response to Arianism, a wide-spread heresy that denied the divinity of Christ.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is a foundational doctrine of the Church because it is a doctrine of God Himself. It affirms that God is a communion of three co-equal, co-eternal persons sharing one divine nature. It rejects the claim that the Son or the Spirit are created realities or lesser beings. It affirms that divine life is relational love, not isolation. Our Creeds affirm the Trinity. While there are hints of God's triune nature in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament), Jesus reveals the reality of the Trinity in the New Testament.

Christian life and practice are rooted in the truth of the Holy Trinity. We are baptized in the name of the Triune God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We begin every prayer and sacrament by invoking the Holy Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity affirms that God is knowable, but not inexhaustibly comprehensible, that's why we call it a "mystery". The reality of God will always be something that we can approach but never fully master.

The Christian life is meant to reflect the unity found in God, distinction without division, unity of purpose, and self-giving love. This loving communion of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is what we are called to strive for and what we were created to share in for all eternity. The prologue of the Catechism states, *"God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life."* That life is the life of the Holy Trinity.

We traditionally pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit, but we can pray directly to any person of the Trinity because all are one God.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,

Fr. Gary