



June 12, 2022

## The Most Holy Trinity—Ordinary Time

*O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!*

*Psalm 8:2*



Dear Friends,

There was a story that made an impression on me from grade school religion class. Sister told us a story about St. Augustine. He was a great teacher in the ancient church. One day Augustine was trying to understand the mystery of God. God is revealed to us as triune—one being three different persons. How could this be!

Walking along the beach the great saint was contemplating the mystery. He came upon a young boy who was digging a hole in the sand. Augustine asked the boy *"What are you doing?"* The boy responded, *"I am going to put the ocean into this hole I dug."* *"That's impossible,"* Augustine replied. *"The ocean is immense, and your hole is small."* *"So too, you will not be able to understand God,"* said the boy, *"God is immense, and you are small."*

There is a strain of arrogance in much of contemporary Christianity. Many Christians have felt that their faith is threatened. So, they have responded with fundamentalism which is an ignorant certitude. They know what they know, and no one is going to tell them different. Doing this, they replace faith in the mystery of God with a false image. That image looks more like them than God. St Augustine once quipped, *"If you comprehend it, it is not God."*

Those who have had a taste of God always know that they do not know. God is a mystery. The word 'mystery' originates in the Sanskrit word '*mu*' which meant to be 'tongue-tied' or 'hushed to silence.' This word is related to our words: mystery, mystic, mute, mumble, and mutter. When faced with the tremendous mystery of God we cannot find the words. All we can do is mumble and stutter, because we know whatever it is that just happened is beyond words, beyond proving, and beyond any kind of rational certitude.

There are certain things in life that are beyond everyday words. Top among those is the experience of deep love of another. Therefore, we use poetry, art and music to express those things we find hard to say in common language. Once a reporter asked Martha Graham (one of the leaders of modern ballet), *"Ms. Graham why do you dance the way you do?"* *"Darling,"* she retorted, *"If I could tell you that then I wouldn't need to dance!"*

The disciples' encounter of Jesus was an experience of profound mystery. They felt that somehow God was dwelling in him. And Jesus spoke with an intimacy about God whom he called affectionately, Abba—Father. Jesus also spoke of a gift that he would send from the Father—the Spirit. The Spirit inspires us to trust that God does indeed speak through Jesus.

The bond of love between the Father and Son we experience as the Spirit. And just as the Father and Son could not be separated, we cannot be separated from the promise of Jesus—that those who share a relationship with him will have the same intimate relationship with God. This happens through the Spirit of love that unites all things. We can only come to this through honesty and humility. We don't know, more than we know. But we trust the Spirit will guide us.

The experience of Jesus leads us to the communion of love we name the Holy Trinity. Jesus reveals the Father and the Spirit as an experience of pure love. The many are bound together as one by love. We, who are made in the image of God, are made for relationship. Jesus wasn't interested in making or winning an argument, or compelling anyone to join a club, or political party or religion. If we are going to be caught up in the mystery of The Holy Trinity, we will find it through love and service. We are made for one another and for God. As words fail before such a mystery, let us express it in our love for one another!

Peace,

*Fr Ron*

*Esta carta está en español en el sitio web: [www.anne.church](http://www.anne.church)*