

## Homily on Holy Trinity-B

St. John Maria Vianney is holy priest from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He used to explain Holy Trinity using lighted candles and Rose flowers on the altar and water in the cruets. “The flame has color, warmth and shape. But these are expressions of one flame. Similarly the rose has color, fragrance and shape. But these are expressions of one reality, namely, rose. Water, steam and ice are three separate expressions of one reality. In the same way one God revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

A good illustration of the Trinity comes from world-renowned scientist Dr. Henry Morris. He explains that the entire universe is Trinitarian by design. The universe consists of three things: matter, space, and time. Take away any one of those three and the universe would cease to exist. But each one of those is itself a trinity. Matter = mass + energy + motion. Space = length + height + breadth. Time = past + present + future.

The doctrine of Holy Trinity is very complex and complicated idea. We can't ever grasp the how of the Holy Trinity, but we can know the Who. This is because God continually reveals Himself to us. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is a doctrine articulated by the ecumenical councils of Nice and Constantinople. And this is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and the greatest mystery of our Faith. What is this mystery of the Holy Trinity all about? It means that there are three distinct and divine persons, sharing the same divine nature in one God. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is very part of our prayer life; because all the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass and the sacraments, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity namely “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We are baptized, absolved of our sins and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity. Throughout the world, church bells ring three times a day inviting Christians to pray to God the Father (the Provider); God the Son (the Savior); and God the Holy Spirit (the Sanctifier). We bless ourselves with the sign of the cross invoking the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we conclude our prayers glorifying the Holy Trinity, saying “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.”

Are there any foundation to the Holy trinity in the Old Testament? The Old Testament books give only indirect and passing references to the Trinity and the Jewish rabbis never understood them as references to the Holy Trinity. Genesis 1:26 presents God speaking to Himself: *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."* Genesis 18:2 describes how Yahweh visited Abraham in the appearance of three men, an event that the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates as the "Trinitarian Experience of Abraham." In Genesis 11:7, before punishing the proud builders of the Tower of Babel, God says, *"Come, let Us go down among them and confuse their language"*. These passages do not state but they imply the doctrine of the Trinity. But in the NT we get clear references to the doctrine of the Trinity. a) The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38) describes how God the Father sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, to announce to her that God, the Holy Spirit, would "overshadow" her, and that God, the Son, would be made flesh in her womb. b) During the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 16-17), the Holy Spirit was shown descending on Jesus in the form of a dove, while the voice of God the Father was heard from the clouds. c) John (Chapters 15 through 18) presents the detailed teaching of Jesus on the Persons of the Holy Trinity. d) In the preaching mission given by the risen Lord to the disciples, Jesus commanded them to baptize people *"in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30)

When we make the sign of the cross, the most important and simple catholic prayer, it has very profound meaning.

In the West, we make the sign of the cross with an open hand which is a symbol of blessing. Therefore, when we are making the sign of the cross, we are blessing ourselves in the name of the Holy Trinity. In the East, they make the sign of the cross with three first fingers, starting with the thumb finger holding together, which is the sign of the Holy trinity and then the last two fingers folding back, reminding the two natures of Christ, both human and divine. In the sign of the cross, we are reminding ourselves three things: a) God is a trinity. b) Our price tag, how much you are worth? We are worth God's very life. c). we are reminded why God created us? He created us to know him (placing your hand on the forehead) He created us to love Him (placing your hand on the heart) He created us to serve Him in this life (placing your hand on both shoulders) and to be with Him forever in Heaven.

The Trinity is the model for Christian families: We are created in love -- to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. Since the day we were baptised, we have belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How privileged we are to grow up in such a beautiful family! Hence let us turn to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer every day. We belong to their family, the family of the triune God. The love, unity and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our families become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others. In all our relationship we must be like the Holy trinity. The self needs to be in a horizontal relationship with all other people and in a vertical relationship with God. Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the building up of the fabric of our family, our church, our community and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance. St Athanasius proclaims, "In the Holy Trinity none is afore, or after other: none is greater or less than another." The famous *British writer* William Morris said "Fellowship is heaven and lack of fellowship is hell" "fellowship is life and lack of fellowship is death."