

Homily for the feast of the HOLY TRINITY (June 15-2025)

Readings :-Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

My dear brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Today's feast invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine enunciated by the ecumenical councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the greatest mystery of our Faith, namely, that there are Three Divine Persons, sharing the same Divine Nature in one God. *"There is one God, who has three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, yet there is still only one God"*

The mystery of the magnitude of the universe: The universe has around 100–1000 billion galaxies. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way. The Milky Way contains 100–400 billion stars with their planets (including the sun and its planets), and our earth is one of its tiny planets. This means that our Sun is just one star among the hundreds of billions of stars in our Milky Way Galaxy. The diameter of the observable universe is about 93 billion light years: a light-year is a unit of length equal to 6 trillion miles. The number and size of galaxies and stars and planets in the universe remain mind-baffling mysteries. In spite of all our latest astronomical discoveries and studies, we have been able to send astronauts only to our earth's single moon. — So it's no wonder that the nature of the Triune God (Who created everything that has existence by His will and word alone), remains a mystery. That is why we have to accept in Faith the mystery of the Triune God Who has revealed Himself in the Holy Scripture!

Importance of trinity in Christian life: 1) All prayers in the Church begin in the Name of the Holy Trinity and end glorifying the Trinity. 2) All Sacraments are administered (we are baptized, confirmed, anointed, our sins are forgiven, our marriages are blessed, and our Bishops, priests and deacons are ordained) in the name of the Holy Trinity. 3) When Church bells ring thrice daily, they remind us to give glory to the Holy Trinity for the Incarnation of Jesus and His Redemption of all of us. 4) We bless ourselves, and the priest blesses us, in the Name of the Holy Trinity.

Biblical basis: There are only vague and hidden references to the Trinity in the Old Testament. But the New Testament gives clear teachings on the Holy Trinity.

1) At the Annunciation, God the Father sent His angel to Mary, God the Holy Spirit came upon her, the Power of the Most High overshadowed her, and God the Son became Incarnate in her womb.

2) At the Baptism of Jesus, when the Son received the baptism of repentance from John the Baptist, the Father's Voice was heard, and the Holy Spirit appeared as a Dove and descended upon Jesus.

3) At the Ascension, Jesus commissioned his disciples to baptize those who believed, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

4) **John's account:** In John's Gospel, chapters 15–18, we have a detailed account of Jesus' teaching of the role of each Person of the Holy Trinity: a) God the Father creates and provides for His creatures. b) God the Son redeems us and reconciles us with God. c) God the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, strengthens us, teaches us, and guides us to God.

Important points for personal reflection and life:- **01 We need to be aware of God as the Source of our strength and courage.** Our awareness and conviction of the presence of God within us give us the strength to face the manifold problems of life with Christian courage. It was such a conviction that prompted the early Christian martyrs being taken to their execution to shout the heroic prayer of Faith from the Psalms: *"The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge "* (Ps 46:7,11).

02) We need to see the Trinity as the model for our Christian families: We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are One in Love. From the day of our Baptism, we have belonged to the One God, 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 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.

Exegetical notes: 1) The development of the Trinitarian doctrine in the Church. The oldest doctrinal formulation of the Church's belief in the Trinity is found in the **Apostles' Creed** which has served both as the basis of instruction for catechumens and as the Baptismal confession of Faith since the second century. Later, the **Nicene Creed**, originating at the Council of Nicaea (AD 325), stated the doctrine more explicitly. This creed was introduced into our Western liturgy by the regional **council of Toledo** in AD 589. God has revealed to us three separate functions that are attributed to the Three Persons. He has told us that it is proper to **attribute** to God the Father the work of Creation, to God the Son the work of Redemption, and to God the Holy Spirit the work of Sanctification. Our knowledge of God as Trinity is made possible *by God*, Who has chosen to reveal Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father, God has brought forth the created universe, including our own being. As the Father's Only-begotten Son Incarnate, Jesus, God has made known One Who hears our cries, Who cares, Who counts the hairs on our head, and Who loves us so passionately that He became one of us in order to suffer for our sins, and even to die for us. that we may live forever in Him. As Spirit, God remains with us and within us, guiding, protecting, comforting, instructing, and defending us throughout our lives here that we may be one with God forever.

2) The Triune God as seen in the Old Testament: Since Yahweh, the God of Israel, was careful to protect His Chosen People from the pagan practice of worshipping several gods, 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 under 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 imply, rather than state, the doctrine of the Trinity

3) Clear statement of God as Triune in the New Testament.

1. **The Annunciation** (Lk 1: 26-38), describes how God the Father sent the Archangel Gabriel to Mary to announce to her that God the Holy Spirit, would *"come upon"* her, that *"the power the Most*

- High*” would “overshadow” her, that the Son would be made flesh in her womb: *“Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”*
2. b) During the **Baptism of Jesus** (Mt 3:16-17), the Holy Spirit is shown descending on Jesus in the form of a Dove, while the Voice of God the Father is heard from the clouds, saying, *“You are My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased”* (Lk 4:22).
 3. c) John (Chapters 15 through 18) presents the detailed teaching of Jesus on the Persons of the Holy Trinity.
 4. d) In the preaching mission given by the risen Lord to the disciples, Jesus commands them to baptize people *“in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* (Mt 28:18-20; Confer also Jn 10:30).

JOKES OF THE WEEK: -1) Trinitarian Love, the essence of family life: One day, while he was walking with God in the Garden of Eden Adam said, *“Excuse me God, can I ask you a few questions?”* God replied, *“Go on Adam, but be quick. I have a world to create.”* So, Adam says, *“When you created Eve, why did you make her body so curved and tender unlike mine?”* *“I did that, Adam, so that you could love her.”* *“Oh, well then, why did you give her long, shiny, beautiful hair?”* *“I did that Adam so that you could love her.”* *“Oh, well then, why did you make her so stupid? Is that too because I should love her?”* *“Well, Adam, no. I did that so that she could love you.”*

02) : Trinitarian pastor: One parishioner said, “The Trinitarian God is a lot like our pastor. I don’t see him through the week, and I don’t understand him on Sunday

Additional anecdotes:-1) .” **“Bad things always come in threes.”** An old adage warns, “Bad things always come in threes.” Have you found this true in your own experience — that bad things like to happen in community, in bunches? **You say:** we invent this connection by suddenly realizing that we got a flat tire on the same day that a computer glitch devoured our hard drive, shortly after our last contact lens just slid down the drain. **I say:** there seems to be something significant about the power of three. — On this Sunday, “Trinity Sunday,” the Church celebrates the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, affirming the Truth that good things also come in threes. We recognize God as Creator (the Father), God as Redeemer (the Son), and God as Sanctifier (the Holy Spirit).

02) A dumb debate on God: The following imagined debate for mute and deaf scholars is a warning to our pastors who think that they have explained Holy Trinity well to their flock on Trinity Sunday. The Jews and the

Catholics are having a debate about God and decide that they will each send one representative to prove that their side is right. The only rule is that words are not allowed. They decide on their representatives. The Vatican decides to send their best brain – Cardinal Ratzinger, the head of the Congregation on Faith and Morals – while the Jews pick one of their best rabbis to represent them. As a sign of respect, the Jews allow the debate to be held at the local cathedral. The time for the debate comes and the rabbi walks into the cathedral and up to the cardinal. The cardinal waves his hand towards the sky. The rabbi responds by slamming his fist into his palm. The cardinal holds up three fingers. The rabbi responds by holding up his middle finger. The cardinal then pulls out bread and wine. The rabbi then reaches into a bag and pulls out two fish. At this point the cardinal holds up his hands and walks away.

After the debate the cardinal heads back to the Vatican to talk it over with the pope and the other cardinals. *“Man, those Jews have it all figured out. First, I said to him, ‘God is everywhere,’ and he responded, ‘God is right here.’ I was taken aback. So, I held up three fingers representing the Holy Trinity, and he held up one meaning, ‘We all worship the same one God.’ I didn’t know what to do so I showed him bread and wine representing the sacrifice of Jesus, and he responded with two fish, representing that Jesus provides.”*

The Rabbi headed back to the synagogue to tell the others his version what had happened. *“Man, you wouldn’t believe those Catholics. The moment I walked in this guy with a weird hat gestures at me ‘No Jews Allowed.’ I said, ‘I’m staying right here.’ Then he said, ‘You have three minutes.’ I said, ‘Get lost.’ Then he pulled out his lunch, so I showed him mine.”*

St. Francis Xavier’s favourite prayer was: “*Most Holy Trinity, Who live in me, I praise You, I worship You, I adore You, and I love You.*” May the Son lead us to the Father through the Spirit, to live with the Triune God forever and ever! Amen.