

Trinity, 2014.

I think that one reason our world is in such a mess today is that we don't know one another; after all, it is easier to allow someone to live in abject poverty we do not know, it is easier to hold onto prejudices about someone we do not know, it is easier to bomb someone we do not know.

On the other hand when it comes to the Trinity, why do we even try to know what is ultimately beyond our comprehension?

We have to ask ourselves: does studying the Trinity have any real significance for us? Well in order to answer this question, we need to recall that we're here on earth to love God and neighbor so that we can be with God in heaven.

We certainly spend a lot of time trying to learn how to love our neighbors, be they our spouse, our children, our parents, our friends, our co-workers, even our enemies (if we have any).

But how can we love this God of ours unless we make some attempt at knowing Him?

Our language so often fails us because even calling God a "him" limits and gives boundaries to a God who has no limits or boundaries.

It was George Bernard Shaw who once warned us that we should beware of those whose God is only in the skies.

For me to try to get God out of the skies, I first need to look at the roles of the three Persons of the Trinity.

The First Person of the Trinity is seen as both Creator and Father.

a) let's begin by looking at *God as our Creator—the first cause, the first mover who began the evolutionary process:*

after all, the grandeur of creation gives us some insights into the Creator: sound, color, taste, smell, and touch are wonderful gifts from our Creator, but none of these attributes are necessary for our salvation-- however they do indicate something of God's creative love for us.

b) *The First Person of the Trinity is also viewed as our Father--* fatherhood brings a different image, a more personal image than "Creator" to the picture.

Recall the story of the prodigal son, or better put, the forgiving Father—this parable was given to us in order to reassure us of the Father's absolute and continuing love for us—a Father who forgives even the worse sinners among us.

This Father wants closeness—that's why we're allowed to address him as Abba, Daddy;

a story that I like to recall is my memory of a 3 year old Israeli child who yelled Abba as she jumped into a swimming pool--there was no doubt in her mind that she would be caught by her Father's strong and loving arms. And we must learn to have that same level of trust in our Father's love.

And especially today, as we celebrate Father's Day, let us reflect upon all those times when our Fathers caught us and forgave us for our various acts of foolishness.

Next we have God as the 2nd person of the Trinity, who is the Son who spent 33 years here on earth as a man, who was put to death and who then rose again...eventually returning to the Father in heaven.

Jesus is God the Father's own personal self-disclosure--
His whole life pointed to doing the will of the Father, of showing us the Father by showing us himself.

Christ's life was salvific--
orientated towards our good, our salvation;
Jesus gave His life for the just and unjust alike.

Christ's life was transfigurative--
he came to make us sons & daughters of the Father & to open up eternal life for us, which we are free to accept or reject.

The greatest indication of who the God is, as far as I'm concerned, is that we are allowed to reject the path offered to us and are not forced to be God's robotic children.

Certainly we know the most of this 2nd Person of the Trinity because Jesus came to live among us & he told us a lot about himself, less about the Father, but only a little about the Holy Spirit.

Finally we have God as the 3rd person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

In God, everything is perfect;
the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father is so perfectly expressed that it is
another Person all together, the Holy Spirit!
The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to sanctify the world;

the Spirit, by reminding us about who we are and what we're called to be, nurtures our growth.

The Spirit holds up a mirror to God from whom, through whom and in whom we all exist,
with the idea of encouraging us to want to be with God for all eternity.

The Church needs to be guided by the Holy Spirit; if it isn't, it is just like any other organization, such as the Elks or some country club.

The Acts of the Apostles is full of stories of a confused and divided Church; and there have been times in our history when we've had three men claiming to be the legitimate pope; and, unfortunately, we don't have to be reminded of the last round of scandals, affecting some 2 % of our U.S. priests.

Unfortunately we tend to read only about the Church at its' broken moments and not about the silent, unobserved good that is being done throughout the world in the name of Christ.

From the earliest times--beginning with the Apostles--all of us Christians disappoint a perfectly loving God & we will continue to do so because all of us are an imperfect extension of the hands, and feet and heart of Jesus.

And so now let us recap:

all life is a journey home to the FATHER—going home to the Father is the goal & destiny of our lives.

JESUS, the Son of God, traveled the road ahead of us and paved the way for us--to that end, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus has made it possible for us to go straight home, without any detours.

Of course non Christians can go to heaven, but Jesus provides us Christians with a sort of super highway.

We may not choose to follow it, but it is there for the taking.

And the HOLY SPIRIT continuously reminds us of the way home and that our real home will be in heaven.

The Spirit hovers over us, brooding over us when we forget about God and lose our way.

As a Mother watches over her children, the Holy Spirit urges us not to forget our destiny, our true home—it is that nurturing Spirit that often causes people to use feminine pronouns when speaking of the Holy Spirit.

And so we are created by the Father,
redeemed through the Son,
sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

I can't remember where I read this, but it bears repeating:

the message of the Church will only become completely meaningless:

if the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past;

if faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain;

if religion speaks only in the name of authority rather with the voice of compassion...

But as long as FAITH is not replaced by creed,

as long as WORSHIP is not replaced by discipline,

as long as LOVE is not replaced by routine,

then our Church will be what God intends us to be--
a people whose God does not only live in the sky,

a people who wishes to better know our God so that we can better reflect the reality of God's love to a world
so broken, so lost,
so in need to knowing and loving God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit...