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**This is not only how we start most of our prayers**

**It is a prayer in itself**

**A prayer that summarizes our feast today**

**As we begin the season of Ordinary Time**

**We have the Feast of the Holy Trinity**

**How do we understand the Trinity?**

**Do we even think of it at all?**

**Perhaps we just accept it**

**We were taught this as a child**

**We memorized what we needed to pass a test**

**Now we don't have to think about it**

**Until our child or grandchild asks**

**Or do we think grasping the Trinity is something for Theologians?**

**It is for the priests or religious to think about**

**When they aren't doing anything between weekend Masses**

**There have been many attempts to make this understandable**

**Even though at its core it is a Mystery**

**One we will never grasp and comprehend**

**But one we get glimpses of**

**And it is important**

**Because we are made in the image and likeness of God**

**So if we comprehend better who God is as God**

**We comprehend better who we are as human beings**

**Let's look first at Sacred Scripture**

**The term 'Trinity' is not found in the Bible**

**Old Testament or New Testament**

**So some say it is something Christians made up**

**Because Scripture does speak of it**

**But when we read Scripture in light of Jesus Christ**

**We can see many references**

**When God made Adam**

**He said: *'Let US make him in OUR image'***

**The author of Wisdom literature spoke of this as well**

***Wisdom* was there with God before there was anything**

***When the Lord established the heavens***

***I was there***

***When he set the limits of the seas***

***Made the skies***

***Set the foundations of the earth***

***I was beside him as his craftsman***

***I found delight in the human race***

**So much so that he became one of us**

**He was born, died and rose for us**

**So we could be with him for all eternity**

**Although St Paul still does not use the term *Trinity***

**He does speak of the three persons of God**

**God has accomplished the work of our salvation**

**We enter into this by faith**

**We do not earn our salvation by what we might do**

**We open our hearts to the healing power of God**

**Through the grace of the sacraments**

**This allows us to boast in the hope of God's glory**

**And to boast of our afflictions**

**Of our weakness**

**We experience affliction so we can grow in perfection**

**Afflictions can help us realize we are helpless on our own**

**If we simply try to rely on human strength and ingenuity**

**But when we allow the love of God to be poured into our hearts**

**When we allow the Holy Trinity to dwell with us**

**It changes how we look at the world**

**It changes how we see ourselves**

**In our Gospels, Jesus often referred to himself as God's Son**

**This was completely opposed to the Jewish way of thinking**

**For them, God is this all-powerful being**

**A distant Father who give orders**

**And expects them to be followed**

**Similar to how Muslims see Him as well**

**But Christ speaks of Him as Abba**

**Like a favorite term one might have for their dad or grandfather**

**A term of endearment and closeness**

**In our Gospel**

**Christ tell his disciples he will send the Spirit of Truth**

**He also told them he is the Way, the Truth and the Life**

**So he will send them his Spirit**

**Jesus tells them *'Everything the Father has is mine***

***He will take what is mine and share it with you***

**We see the Spirit is already at work in Christ**

**It was the disciples that were limited**

**They had to come to know Christ as a human**

**See his works and begin to understand him as God**

**Then, after he was ascended to heaven**

**Open their hearts to the Spirit**

**The work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is not independent of each other**

**They are in a willing submission and a willing sharing**

**They act as one**

**In a communion of love**

**We are made in that image as well**

**We come into this life as a community**

**We all have a mom and a dad**

**Many of us have brothers and sisters**

**Our faith itself comes from a family**

**Because Jesus came from the Holy Family**

**It wasn't required**

**Jesus is God**

**He could have just appeared**

**But he didn't want to**

**He found delight in the human race**

**He desired to become one of us**

**And he did so within the bounds of the Holy Family**

**Lived in love and communion**

**So we see the Trinity does matter**

**And whether we look at it as the three triangles of St Thomas Aquinas**

**The three leaf clover of St Patrick**

**The folded blanket of St. Guiseppe of Cupertino**

**Water, ice and steam**

**The same substance**

**3 very different actions**

**It isn't just a theological concept**

**It impacts our lives here and now**

**It challenges how we see ourselves**

**We'll try another analogy**

**How many persons do we have here today?**

**And how many 'humans' are there present?**

**When we compare this to God, how many persons are here?**

**And how many Gods?**

**Humans have their own humanity**

**And we can choose to come to Mass, to worship**

**We can choose to stay home**

**We normally equate our autonomy as perfection**

**The more self-sufficient I am**

**The less I need others, the more human I become**

**That is the American way of thinking**

**But it is not God's way**

**God is one**

**The Father's identity is because he has the Son**

**The Father, Son and Holy Spirit share in God's divinity**

**We can't find one without the other two**

**They have one substance, one nature**

**But separate identities in relation to each other**

**In communion with each other**

**They make a perfect gift of each other to each other**

**And we need to be able to do this as well**

**To become truly human,**

**We need to learn that we are made to be a gift for others**

**In lives of service**

**Through lives of intercessory prayer and worshiping God at Mass**

**Through acts of charity at home in our families**

**In our parish and in our community**

**We need to be rooted in this**

**Because the temptations to isolate ourselves today are greater than ever**

**How often do we use modern technology for this?**

**Texting and emails instead of face to face communication**

**DVD's can be great things**

**But they can be overdone to the detriment of family life**

**We can go to the ATM**

**Use the automatic checkout at the gas station and the supermarket**

**We can lose ourselves in an array of iPods and Xboxes**

**Anything to keep us from human interaction**

**None of these are bad things in themselves**

**But when they become the dominant force in our lives**

**We become isolated from each other**

**We lose the relational aspect of human life**

**We lose the Trinitarian aspect of our life**

**At the heart of the Trinity is love**

**To truly love is to risk being hurt**

**It is to be vulnerable**

**If we give our heart to anything**

**Even to a pet, we risk a broken heart**

**So we tend to protect ourselves**

**Draw back, isolate ourselves**

**This is not Christ's model**

**It is not the Father's model**

**It is not the Holy Spirit's model**

**God is Love lived in communion between three persons**

**Living in His image and likeness**

**We strive not to know more about God**

**But to know Him who loves us so much**

**He sent His only Son**

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