

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity June 7, 2009

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20

### We Are Family

Our first reading this morning from the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy reminds us that there is only one God. He is the God that can speak from a burning bush. He is the God who rescued His chosen people from an oppressive nation by working signs and miracles. He is the God of both heaven and earth.

This belief in one God, the God of Abraham, is a belief we share with Jews and Muslims. But our understanding of God has advanced from the days of Moses and that's because Jesus came down to earth and personally taught us about God. The Jews call God Yahweh. The Muslims call Him Allah. But as Christians we call the one God the Trinity. We still believe that there is only one God, but we believe that the one God consists of three divine persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Do we completely understand the mystery of the Trinity? No, our human intelligence, quite frankly, finds the concept difficult to grasp. The Catechism says: *"The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life."* But even though we do not have complete understanding, we believe it because Jesus tells us that it is true. He told us about His Father and about His Spirit and their relationship. We hear Jesus in the gospel this morning say: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."* He didn't say *names*, plural. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit combine to make up one name for God.

So, as Christians, we have what we believe is a more developed and correct understanding of the nature of God, even if we can't completely comprehend it. And this understanding of God as three Persons has a significant impact on our relationship with Him. We no longer see Him as a distant God who looks down on us and imposes His will upon us from above. We now think of God in the context of family. God is our Father. God is our Brother. God is the Spirit of them both that ties them together in love.

What a wonderful blessing to be able to understand God as a loving family; a family we are welcomed into when we are baptized. In our second reading this morning, St. Paul explains that through our baptism we become adopted sons and daughters of God the Father, Joint heirs with Christ of the Kingdom of Heaven. What a wonderful gift. St. Paul says that we can call out to God not using a formal name, but by the personal concept of a child to his loving father. He says we cry, *"Abba, Father!"* And the word *abba* is a much more intimate name. It's more like saying *papa* or *daddy*.

I think it is important for us to try to gain this child-like attitude in our relationship with God; to be able to have this personal relationship and call God the Father, daddy or papa. Jesus said: *"Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt. 18:3).

God is the God of heaven and earth. He is here with us at all times and everywhere we go. Turn to Him in your daily troubles. Bring your cares and concerns to your daddy who loves you and wants what is best for you. Share your joys and accomplishments with

Him as well. I have this image of God the Father with a big refrigerator door and a lot of magnets to post all those awards and good works. Sit down with your big brother, Jesus, who has walked this earthly journey and also was tempted and suffered along the way. What a wonderful big brother to look up to as an example of how to live our lives. And don't forget, we can also bring our tears and our joys to Mary, our heavenly mother. Improve your relationship with her as well so that you can feel comfortable calling her *mom*.

Our families here on earth may not all be perfect, but our family in heaven is. What a wonderful blessing for us to be part of the divine family of God. We have a relationship of love with the perfect Daddy and a perfect Brother. And that Brother gave us His mother to be our mother as well.

We stay close to our family and we look forward to the great family reunion when we get to heaven when we can see them all face to face.

**Deacon Joe Hulway**