

Holy Trinity (C)
(Proverbs 8:22-31 / John 16:12-15)
22.05.2016

Dear brothers and sisters,

We celebrate the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, the mystery of one God in three persons, in other words the mystery of a multifaceted unique God. Our God is a living God. There is life in Him. God is a relationship of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Today, we shall not contemplate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in itself, that is to say the life between the three persons of the Trinity, but we shall focus on the relationship of the three persons of the Holy Trinity with each one of us. God enters into relationship with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God enters into relationship with us as Father. An image from the psalmist imposes itself to us: **“A weaned child on its mother’s breast, even so is my soul”** (Ps 130, 2). A child on its mother’s lap, a child in its father’s arms! This image evokes a presence of an exceptional and even a unique quality, a presence which is the source of security, contentment and peace for the child, a presence which helps the child to grow and to situate himself in truth: he is a creature, and not the creator; he is a dependent and yet a free child, one who receives life as a gift. He is not his own origin. This is the sort of presence God our Father offers us.

We can experience the presence of God as Father in nature, in front of breathtaking scenery, a blossoming shrub in springtime, or at the view of trees clothed with their autumnal colours.

We can experience the presence of God as Father when we read a verse from the Scriptures which enlightens us and gives us peace of mind and heart. Either suddenly or at last we understand! We may have read the text many times and then one day God speaks to us through it.

We can experience the presence of God as Father in the sacraments which are offered to us by the Church.

We can experience the fatherly presence of God in a dialogue with someone who either confirms or corrects us, and shows us the way forward.

God’s fatherly love envelops us as a father’s and a mother’s love envelops and pacifies their children and then helps them to grow.

If our experience with our earthly father was deficient or non existent, it can be more difficult for us to recognize, believe in or receive our heavenly Father’s love. But even if we have never experienced good fatherly love, we can discover what true fatherly love is in the Scriptures. For example, we cannot read Luke 15, the parable of the merciful father and his two sons, without discovering what true fatherly love is.

In our relationship with God as Father, we learn how to become sons and daughters of God.

God enters into relationship with us also through his Son. In his Son, Jesus, God reveals himself to us as a God who is with us and for us.

Jesus, the beloved son of the Father, one with the Father, came to earth and became one of us, one like us. He had to grow, to learn, to work, to socialize, to love. He became like us in all things but sin. He became one of us to reveal to us the unconditional love of the Father for all humankind without exception. Jesus taught his own people and showed them the compassion and mercy of God for them, healing the sick, speaking to sinners and outcast. God in his Son is with

us and for us for ever. In Jesus, God gives his life for you, for me, for us. The Son came among us to reveal to us that God is a God on our side, a God for us. At the end, when he was dying on the cross, Jesus was still looking at us, revealing to us that God is with us and for us always, bringing healing to us, forgiving our sins and saving us from death. God's mercy and compassion in our regard are made manifest to us in the life of His Son and especially at the end when he dies on the Cross.

In our Mother House, at Monte Oliveto Maggiore in Tuscany, in the chapel dedicated to Saint Bernard Tolomei, there is a painting by Antonio Nasini which represents Christ dying on the Cross. As Christ is dying, he seems to look at Saint Bernard Tolomei who, kneeling at the foot of the cross, looks towards Jesus. It is a fascinating scene of love! Until the end, the Son reveals to us that God is a God for us and with us.

And then God enters into relationship with us through the Holy Spirit. The life breath of God has been given to us. Through the Holy Spirit God is a God within us. He breathes within us, following the rhythm of our own breath: our breathing in and our breathing out: He is with us as we murmur "Abba father". The Holy Spirit within us introduces us into the prayer of Jesus to his Father and invites us to make it our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God accompanies us from our first breath to our last, from our birth until that moment when, as we say, we shall breathe our last.

We are not always aware of our breathing, but we don't stop breathing as long as we live. We are not always aware of God's presence within us through the Holy Spirit, but He is always there.

The Spirit leads us day after day into the complete truth. He tells us little by little, at the right time, all that the Father wants to tell us through the testimony of His Son.

With the Spirit, we are inhabited by the love of God, the love which is the communion between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love our brothers and sisters who were created in the image and likeness of God.

The Holy Trinity is the mystery of a God who loves us as a father and mother love us, the mystery of a God who is with us and for us, saving us. It is the mystery of a God who is within us. Before such love, praise is the only attitude which is fitting. So, let us give praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in three persons for ever and ever.