

Dear Friends,

As I prepared the opening lines of this week's bulletin article, I heard from my office one of students from the pre-kindergarten class yell, "Jesus died on the Cross!" A few moments later, "Pentecost!" I found out later that these enthusiastic responses were answers to questions that were a part of the day's religion lesson. Oh that we can answer so powerfully the truths of our faith!

I thank members of the Parish Pastoral Council, in particular Karen Paschal and Andrew Ferrie, for spearheading the parish census initiative. It has been almost twenty years since the last census, and much has changed between then and now. While this is an opportunity to clarify our records and correct any errors, this also gives us a starting point to get to know the needs of the people who live in our parish. Not surprisingly, we took in several new registrations. Sometimes adding to the numbers of the Church is as simple as setting up a table in the back of the Church!

The in-Church portion of the census concludes this weekend. Then, the work becomes more challenging: going out into the community to evangelize the Good News of Jesus Christ. How will you do your part to make this happen?

The theological complexity of the Most Holy Trinity invites us to further reflection in the week ahead. The following article is for you to ponder.

God bless,

Fr. Jones

Trinity Sunday commemorates and honors not an event, but a reality: the Holy Trinity. Trinity Sunday always falls on the Sunday after Pentecost; it is officially called "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity." On Trinity Sunday, Catholics remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. The Trinity is described as a "mystery." By mystery the Church does not mean a riddle, but rather the Trinity is a reality above our human comprehension that we may begin to grasp, but ultimately must know through worship, symbol, and faith. It has been said that mystery is not a wall to run up against, but an ocean in which to swim. Essentially the Trinity is the belief that God is one in essence (Greek *ousia*), but distinct in person (Greek *hypostasis*). The Greek word for person means "that which stands on its own," or "individual reality," and does not mean the persons of the Trinity are three human beings. Therefore Christians believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are somehow distinct from one another (not divided though), yet completely united in will and essence. How can this be? Well, think of the sight of two eyes. The eyes are distinct, yet one and undivided in their sight. Another illustration to explain the Trinity is the musical chord. Think of a C-chord. The C, E, and G notes are all distinct notes, but joined together as one chord the sound is richer and more dynamic than had the notes been played individually. The chords are all equally important in producing the rich sound, and the sound is lacking and thin if one of the notes is left out.

The Son is said to be eternally begotten of the Father, while the Holy Spirit is said to proceed from the Father through the Son. Each person of the Trinity permeates one another, and each has distinct roles in creation and redemption, which is called the Divine economy. For instance, God the Father created the world through the Son and the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at creation.

Ultimately, the Trinity represents a dynamic God, whose ultimate nature is beyond human conception, yet who voluntarily operates within the created world. The Trinity also shows a loving God that is willing to become as we are so that we may become like Him. The Trinity is the heart of our salvation.