

Trinity Sunday, 2015
St. Athanasius and St. Francis Parishes
May 30, 31, 2015

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
This is how we begin most every prayer and every prayer-time.

We may not intend this as some deep theological profession of faith in a Trinity God. We may simply want to invoke God, invite God's attention We may only want to say that everything we are about to do and say is going to be done with an awareness of God.

Nonetheless, when we say, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we are indeed making a clear profession of faith that God is a Trinity, one God yet three individual and distinct persons.

There is no easy way to define and explain our Trinity God. One God, three distinct persons. Not three Gods, and not one of the three persons any less than the other two persons. All God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thus with Moses we can honestly cry out: *“Did anything so great ever happen before?”* Or maybe, we don't think much about just how great this Trinity God is?

We heard Moses say this and statements like it in today's First Scripture. They come from the Book of Deuteronomy. This book appears as the 5th book of Scripture in our Bible. It is one of the five books of the Hebrew Torah, and contains much material about Moses and The Law that Moses received from God. Yet the Book of Deuteronomy was written late in comparison to the other five, or at least it was late in being discovered as a written text. Most scholars date Deuteronomy about 640 years BC., even though it reports on material and events that happened probably 600 years earlier than that, or around 1200 BC. Deuteronomy is actually the second account of much earlier material that is first found in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. The writer is looking back on their experience of God, reflecting on how wonderfully God has acted on their behalf.

On this Feast of the Holy Trinity, it is good to think about our approach to this amazing and wonderful God that we have *“Has any God ever done such amazing things for others as your God has done for you?”*

-has any God ever spoken from the midst of fire?

-has any God ever before permitted a people to hear His voice?

-has any God ever before acted on behalf of a nation as God has acted on your behalf?

These are all statements from today's First Scripture. Yet, we continue to approach God

and religion as a duty, an obligation, even a burden, when in fact, it is really none of these. God and religion have always gotten, and continue to get, a bum rap from many people, and certainly from society. For many people the word and practice of religion immediately raises thoughts of 'rules' and 'guilt'. There is no question that religion, all religions, entails rules. Life entails rules. But we cannot stop at that level, even though there is a tendency to do so. Because when we get stalled thinking that religion is first and even only about 'rules' and thus even 'guilt', we miss the real beauty and the real wonder of God. We overlook that 'yes, indeed.....

-our God has spoken to us not simply from the midst of a burning bush, but through the words and life of his own Son

-our God continues to live among us through the presence of His Son in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, and in the reserved Eucharist kept in the tabernacles of our churches. God is always present to us.

-our God has acted and continues to act on our behalf by sending us the Holy Spirit, who is the source of peace, and forgiveness. "Peace be with you ... whose sins you forgive they are forgiven them" (John 20) "Ask what you wish, and it will be granted unto you." (John 15:7) "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

-while God has never actually spoken out loud to me, at least in anyway that I have recognized, God does speak to me through the lives of the saints and the lives of holy people today. The stories of people and their relationships with one another and with God continue to amaze me.

One of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is Wonder and Awe. Maybe we need a double dose of this gift.

To observe and celebrate this Feast of the Holy Trinity, think about how you may use the phrase 'have to': "I have to visit my grandmother", "I have to go to Mass". We often speak without thinking, and when we use the phrase "have to" for things like the above, it sounds as if doing these things were a burden, a task I wish I didn't have to do. It sounds as if there are 100 things I would rather be doing than visiting grandmother or going to Mass. The words we use are heard as they are spoken. When I say "I have to visit my grandmother", or, "Why do I have to go to Mass?" it does sound as if you don't want to do that. So, begin to think more in terms of 'get to'. You get to go see your grandmother ... many people don't. You get to go to Mass indeed what a privilege!

On this Feast of the Holy Trinity we celebrate God as Source, Savior, and Spirit.
Source of our life there is no other source.

Savior we can't save ourselves, even though we often try.

Spirit life can be dynamic; life can be full of energy and inner spirit ... because this Trinity God we recognize and celebrate today lives within us.

Please join me In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.