

## **Holy Trinity: A model for love and relationship**

We say, 'man is a social animal'. Why? Because humans have some intrinsic psychological needs, like to be related, accepted, appreciated, and loved. Although sometimes, we may feel that 'the other is a hell', as Jean Paul Sartre wrote, true to its sense in the song, 'no man can live as an Island', it is not easy for man to live all alone. If there isn't another person, how can our need to be appreciated and loved to be met? Therefore, it's our need that the other should exist. Only then life is possible, relationships are possible. (To exist means to co-exist, and to co-exist means to pro-exist).

The true thought about 'human relationship' we have comes from the faith in a Trinitarian God. When we say, 'God is One', the Trinity will remind us of our need to think that God is not just 'only one'. We learn from our faith that 'there are three distinct Persons in one God, sharing the same Divine nature. In *essence* they are one, but in *person* they are three'. This reveals us that even God is not outside relationship.

Holy Trinity is the true explanation of what it means "God is love". To say, 'God is love' is different from saying, 'God loves'. If God is alone, we cannot say, 'God is love'. God cannot be someone selfish, 'who loves himself'. Therefore, there should be three realities that substantiate the expression, "God is love": *the one who loves, the one loved and the love itself that exists between them*. When we see the Holy Trinity through this truth, we are able to approach the *mystery of Trinity*. The Father who loves, the Son who is loved, and the Spirit of love that emerges from the Father and the Son. Hence with the metaphor of love, we can draw the beautiful picture of the Holy Trinity, and we understand God as love by being in relationship.

If without love, without relations, even God has no existence, how can we who depend on others for everything, live without relations?

Therefore, brothers and sisters, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity invites us to think about our relationships.

When we think about love, or those whom we love, we also think about the things we do for them for love. This is also our pride as well as complaint about love. (The pride we have that I have done so much for the one I love, or the complaint that even after doing all these, I have received very little in return). But Jesus corrects our pride and complaint regarding love, by telling us about *his love* relationship with his Father. “As Father has loved me, I have loved you” (Jn 15:9) Therefore ‘love one another, as I love you’. Jesus speaks also about the Holy Spirit: “The Holy Spirit will lead you to the whole truth”(Jn 6:13).

B&S, we know that love also means ‘remembrance’. More than just remembering the other, it is also to remember all that I have received through the other. Only when we remember the good that I have received from the other, I can appreciate a relationship. One of the sorrows of our time is that such memories are deteriorating. Instead, we complain about the possible loss we may have because of love. It will be hard for a mind to love, that suffers about the loss due to relationship. Let us be people of memories, because we need to love and need to be loved. Also, because, today we celebrate “the Memorial Day” as well.

Therefore, let us pray today as we celebrate the Holy Trinity: “Lord Jesus, your strength to love me was your memory of being loved by your Father. In memory of your love for me, help me to love one another. Help me to remember the good that I received through others and be grateful about it, Amen.

Joke of the day: (*Once a parishioner said, “The Trinitarian God is a lot like our pastor. I don’t see him through the week, and I don’t understand him on Sunday.”* 😊)