

## The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

It is very appropriate that, in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church, Pentecost Sunday is followed immediately by the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, because on the Day of Pentecost we witness that Unity of the Godhead, of which the Athanasian Creed speaks,

*“ Now this is the Catholic Faith: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in Unity, without either confusing the Persons or dividing the Substance; for the Person of the Father is one, the Person of the Son another, the Person of the Holy Spirit another; but the Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is One; their glory equal, their majesty equally eternal”*

On the Day of Pentecost we see the Three Persons of the Holy and Blessed Trinity working together in Unity of Will and Purpose, of One Substance but in Three Persons. Thus the Holy Spirit is sent down upon the Church by the Risen and Ascended Jesus, but the Holy Spirit **proceeds** from the Father ( St.John 15 v 26 ), and thus is sent down upon the Church also by the Father ( St.John 14 v 26 ) but **through** Jesus the Son, Who has received the Promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, Whom the Son, now pours out upon the Church ( Acts 1 v 4; 2 v 33 ).

Thus the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son. It is the Will of God and His vocation for us that through the Holy Spirit, the Son lives within us (Romans 4 v 6 ), and that, through the Son, we receive the Holy Spirit through Whom Jesus comes to us. Thus Jesus says to the disciples, on the night of the Last Supper, “ We will come and make our home in him ( the believer ) ” (St.John 14 v 23 ) - “Thou in Me, and I in Thee, and they in Us” (St.John 17 v 21 ). As members of the Body of Christ, through the Holy Spirit, we now have access to the Father through the Son - “ we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through Whom we have obtained access to this grace – sharing the glory of God ( Romans 5 v 12 ) and thus, at every Mass, we offer our prayers “through Him, and in Him and with Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit”.

Thus the Father lives in us through Jesus living in us through the Holy Spirit! - and through the Holy Spirit we have **access** to the Father through the Son, “ for through Him we have access in One Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2 v 18 ), and all this flows to us from ( and in and through ) the Precious Blood of Jesus - “ the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all” ( Hebrews 10 v 10 ), for “when Christ had offered for all time a single Sacrifice for sin, He sat down at the right hand of God” ( 10 v 12 ) and thus we now “ have confidence to enter into the Sanctuary by the Blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which He opened for us – and since we have a great High Priest over the House of God, **let us draw near** with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience ( Confession ) and our bodies washed with pure water” ( Baptism ) (Hebrews 10 v 19 – 22 ). This is God’s **gracious invitation** to us, on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. An invitation from the Father, and from the Son and from the Holy Spirit! – an invitation through Jesus, to be caught up into the Life of the Holy and Blessed Trinity! What an invitation! Why do we hold back - from repentance, conversion, forgiveness of sin, new life and participation in the Divine Life of God Himself? ( 2 Peter 1 v 4 ).

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, Daughter of God the Father, Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, Mother of God the Son, we see the Church already perfected and caught up into the Life of the Most Holy Trinity, and we pray that, through her maternal prayers and intercessions, we may follow where she has gone - that we might share in the graces and perfection of her Immaculate Heart on that Day when Jesus her Divine Son “presents the Church to Himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5 v 26/27 ) – a description of Our Lady today, in heaven, and what the Church will be on that Day.

At the Annunciation, Mary conceived the Son, when the Holy Spirit came upon her from the Most High ( St.Luke 1 v 35 ). At the Baptismal Font, the power of the Most High overshadowed us, and Jesus was conceived in us by the Holy Spirit – on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we pray that we might surrender ourselves to that baptismal vocation and that, like Mary, we may be caught up into the Life of the Most Holy Trinity through the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon us in a New Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit! Mother of God, pray for us!

*“ I beg you, Holy Virgin, that I may receive Jesus from the Holy Spirit, by Whom you brought Jesus forth. May my soul receive Jesus through the Holy Spirit by Whom your flesh conceived Jesus. May I love Jesus in the Holy Spirit in Whom you adore Jesus as Lord and gaze upon Him as your Son” ( St.Idelphonsus of Toledo )*