

The Ascension ... Pentecost ... the Trinity and next week we will celebrate the Body and Blood of Christ. For four weeks in a row we celebrate four of the greatest revelations and mysteries of our faith. Of course ... when **we** talk about mystery ... we are not talking about **“Who Done its”**. ... Nor are we talking about the little mysteries we encounter in our daily lives ... like ... where **do** those missing socks go to hide? No ... we are talking about those deepest mysteries that are at the very core of our faith. Perhaps the best definition of the kind of mystery I am talking about is: *that which **cannot** be explained, yet is **infinitely** explainable!* These are the mysteries that **defy** the wisdom of our world

God our Father, in His **divine** wisdom, created man, and shared with us ... some small portion of His divine wisdom ... that is ... the ability to learn and to understand. Then ... building upon these gifts of wisdom and understanding ... he began to reveal his truths to us ... usually in very small doses ... occasionally in quantum leaps like ... at Mt. Sinai and ... of course the wealth of Divine Revelation bestowed by his Son during his brief lifetime on earth. Of course, Jesus' Ascension was **not** the end of Revealed Truth ... because Jesus ... as He promised ... sent the Holy Spirit to help form, guide ... and teach ... the early church. And the Holy Spirit continues to guide his Church and from time to time ... as needed ... **continues** to build on that wealth of Revealed Truth through the wisdom and teaching authority of His Church.

But with all this wisdom ... and understanding ... humankind sometimes falls prey to arrogance and ... finds **no room** for the God who gave us these gifts ... and they think “If we do not **know it** or if we cannot **figure it out** ... it **just ... must ...not ...be** so!” So much for the doctrine of the feast we celebrate today ... the Holy Trinity ... the revelation about the very **nature** of God.

The Trinity is certainly a revealed truth and many theologians have tackled the task of explaining it. Certainly we have all heard of St. Patrick's legendary but simplistic shamrock comparison! Some have explained it more successfully than others ... but in the end ... **all** explanations have been inadequate! For the Holy Trinity is mystery ... which, by definition, lends itself to infinite explanations and at the same time cannot be explained at all.

There is a story about St. Augustine, walking on a beach contemplating the Trinity when he saw a small boy with a seashell taking water from the ocean and pouring it into a hole in the sand. When he asked the boy what he was doing ... he was told that he was emptying the ocean into the hole; the amused saint told the boy that there was not enough time in all eternity for him to complete such a task. The boy told Augustine that he would, in fact, empty the ocean before the saint could explain the Trinity! The saint learned what we all must accept ... that with true wisdom and understanding **must** come humility. With Divine Revelation the Spirit often leaves much unexplained until such time as **God** decides we are ready ... possibly not until eternity!

So how are we to cope in the meanwhile ... with such mysteries as the Holy Trinity ... that, so far, **un-knowable** ... relationship between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit - and their loving support for us in our lives? William of Thierry, a twelfth-century French Benedictine abbot expressed it this way: "When in your life of faith you are confronted with the deeper mysteries it is natural to become a little frightened. When this happens, take heart faithful Christian. Do not raise objections, but ask with loving submission, How can these things be? Let your question be a prayer, an expression of love and self-surrender to God." In other words ... we must turn to God ... love God ... trust God and in His promises and ... until we **can** grasp the ultimate explanation behind the truth ... and above all have **faith!**