

## *Trinity Sunday 2016*

When I was 18, just beginning my studies for the priesthood, I met a college student who was an atheist. Both of us were working at the New Britain reservoir cutting grass, and in spite of our differences we became friends. At the end of summer, we decided to continue our discussion about God. And so, throughout the fall, we corresponded with each other. He wrote and explained why he didn't believe in God; and I explained why I did. Needless to say, he didn't convince me of his point of view, but neither did I convince him of mine.

I often wonder what happened to that young man. I don't know if he ever came to believe in God, but as I look back at our discussions it is clearer to me now how difficult it is to convince someone there is a God. To be sure, philosophers and theologians have many arguments to prove God's existence. But as I get older, it is my faith, not those arguments, that assures me that God loves me and is present to my life.

*It is my faith in Jesus Christ* that assures me that love and mercy are the face of God. *It is my faith in Jesus Christ* that assures me that God has entered into an abiding covenant of friendship with us. *It is my faith in Jesus Christ* that assures me that this life is not the end but the beginning of a new life that the risen Christ already enjoys.

In the conversations I had with my friend, I tried to prove to him that God exists ... as if God needed my help! I wanted to show him he was wrong and I was right. But as I look back, I now know I approached the question in the wrong way. For even if I could prove the existence of God, what difference would it have made? I would have shown my friend there is a God. But that is not enough. What really matters is the God in whom we believe—the God and Father of Jesus Christ, the God who gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is why today's feast of the Most Holy Trinity is so important.

We do not just believe in God. We believe in God who our Father and Creator. We believe in the God who so loved us that he sent his only Son into the world to save and redeem us. We believe in God who gives us the Spirit so that can share in his Son's resurrection life. We believe in God who is mercy and love, forgiveness and grace. We believe in God who is closer to us than we are to ourselves—God who is present to us even when we are not present to God.

As I look back, I wish I could speak to my friend about God again. I would not try to convince him that God exists. *I would simply tell him*, how much the God and Father of Jesus loves and cares for us. *I would tell him* that the Son of God suffered and died for us. *I would tell him* that Spirit of the living God lives in me and the church. *I would tell him* that faith needs no proof because the God in whom we believe is present to us every day.