

Holy Trinity 2013
Father Frank Matera

Every Sunday we begin Mass by blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” At the beginning of Mass the priest says, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.” At the creed we profess “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty . . ., I believe one Lord Jesus Christ. . ., I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. . .” And throughout the Mass we pray to God the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. From start to finish our worship proclaims *one* God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *one* God who creates, redeems, and sanctifies us.

This Feast of the Holy Trinity provides us with an occasion to reflect on the central mystery of our faith—the mystery of God. What do we mean when we say “God”? What can we know about God? Does God exist?

When we speak of God we are talking about a mystery, but not the kind of mystery we can solve. God is the mystery we experience, the mystery into which we enter. And the more deeply we enter into the mystery, the more we realize how little we know. This is why heaven will be ever new, because God is ever new.

For many of our contemporaries, however, God no longer exists. Convinced that humanity is the center of the world, many of our contemporaries no longer see any need for God. Convinced that we can save ourselves, they reject any notion of God. And to tell the truth, I agree with them on one point: *there is no need for the kind of god they reject; for god they reject is too small, too human.* Such a god does not exist. But the God in whom we believe is totally other. The God in whom we believe is the source and origin of all that is. The God in whom we believe is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But how can we know the God who is both within us and beyond us? How can we know the God of Mystery who created this universe of such infinite beauty and expanse? The answer is found in the feast we celebrate today. We know God because God has revealed himself to us in his Son Jesus Christ. We know God, because God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. We know God because others have witnessed and testified to God’s presence in their lives.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God revealed his love and mercy for us. Through the Spirit he bestows upon us, God fills us with his own life. And so we know God because we have heard his voice in his Son Jesus Christ. We know God because we have experienced the power of God’s Spirit in our lives.

Does God exist? For me the answer is self-evident. The universe, in which we live, surprises us every day by its beauty and grandeur, and it points to the Creator of all that exists. But there is something more that assures me that God is present to my life every day: His Son Jesus Christ and the power of his Spirit. The presence of his Spirit in our life points to the Triune God, the God of Mystery. The Words of Jesus Christ point to the Triune God, the God of

mystery. This is the God in whom we believe. This is the God who changes and transforms our life every day. This is the living God.