

Who is God and How Much Does He Love Each Person?

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

(Sign of the Cross)

Preparation - Readings from Scripture:

First Reading: I John 4:6-16 or Matthew 3:13-17

Response: Psalm 103

Only in God will we find the meaning of life: the truth and happiness for which we never stop searching. God is the Source of our life. We were created by God, and we have dignity because we are called to be united with Him in a relationship of love. We have this capacity for God, this desire for God, written on our heart.

Proclamation: God has revealed to us that He is one God in three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit.

Explanation:

By reason, we can know that God exists. However, we do not know who God is.

- God has revealed it to us in Sacred Scripture that He is One in Three Persons.
- God comes to meet us in revealing Himself to us.
- He reveals who He is and what He wants.

God reveals Himself to the Israelites

- The Israelites lived in Israel and were surrounded by cultures of people who believed in many gods. These gods were angry and the people had to appease these gods.
- God revealed Himself as a personal God. Abraham, Moses spoke with God.
- The one, true God is a God of perfect love. He desires to have a relationship with us.

Jesus reveals the Father and the Spirit.

- At the Baptism of Jesus, the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity are revealed.

1. The Mystery of the Blessed Trinity:

- God is beyond all His creation and cannot be completely comprehended (He is transcendent)
- He is not an impersonal "force"
- There are three Divine Persons, that is, three "who," and one divine nature, that is, one "what"
- Since divinity is indivisible, there is one God, not three Gods (see Dt 6:4)
- Without God's revelation of the Trinity, this central Mystery of the Faith is unknowable

2. The Father, the First Person of the Blessed Trinity (see Mal 2:10):

- The Father is an uncreated Being who created all things from nothing; He is the

First Cause.

- The Father is a Person, but without a body. He is pure spirit.
- He is a loving Father who continually cares for His people

3. The Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity (see John 1:1-4):

- In His perfect knowledge of Himself, the Father begot His one Word, the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The Son is not *created* by the Father, but *begotten*; He is the uncreated image of the Father.
- The Son is completely divine and coequal with the Father, and nothing was made without Him.
- He became Jesus Christ, taking on a complete human nature while remaining completely divine. Jesus is a Divine Person with a divine nature and a human nature.

4. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity (see Rom 5:5): read John 14:16-17

- For all eternity, the Father has poured out His love to the Son, and for all eternity, the Son has poured out His love to the Father. The bond of love between the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is not *created* by the Father and the Son but proceeds from Them as an uncreated Person.
- The Holy Spirit is a Divine person.
- The Holy Spirit is completely Divine and coequal with the Father and the Son; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation.
- The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person but does not have a body. He is pure spirit.

5. God is love (see 1 Jn 4:8-16):

- The three Persons live in a perfect communion of self-giving love; God is a Communion of Persons – an eternal exchange of love.
- God's nature determines His actions; that is, who God is determines what God does
- God's actions are completely good and everything He does is from love.
- God, in His love for us, acts in our lives: He is near us at all time, which means He is immanent.

**Every mystery of the Faith flows from and is connected to
the mystery of the Blessed Trinity**

Questions for Application to Life/Appropriation into Life:

Opening Questions

1. Do you know people who do not believe in God?
2. Why do they not believe?
3. Do you think it matters whether a person believes in God?
4. Why do you believe in God?

Questions for small groups:

- 1) Recall an incident or event in which you felt the love of God.
- 2) How can we be sure that God is one in three Persons?
- 3) How would you explain your relationship with God?
- 4) When God reveals something about Himself to us, He desires a response. What is your response to this revelation from God that He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Celebration—Suggestions for Closing Prayer:

1. Pray to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, asking each person of the Trinity to act in our lives
2. Hymn or song (see previous page for suggestions)
3. Pray the Doxology (“Glory Be”)

*“Let nothing trouble you.
Let nothing frighten you.
Everything passes away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all.
Whoever has God, wants for nothing.
God alone is enough.”*

St. Teresa of Avila (CCC 227)