

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Did you pray today?

Did you consider the question: 'Where do my prayers go?'

Do you vaguely imagine your prayers drifting up and out there...?

If so, you are probably not alone.

Perhaps many of the faithful address their prayers to a vague imagination of God – a 'theist' God. This is a God who has aspects of the Christian God – goodness, mercy, providence – but He is not a Triune God, One in Three Persons!

This is not surprising. The concept of the Trinity has been eroded by modern thought and philosophy.

When our youth graduate high school and go to college, they are taught by professors who, in the majority are disciples of Kant. At the end of the Seventeenth Century, he wrote "the Dogma of the Trinity, taken literally, has nothing to do with praxis". For Kant the mystery of the Trinity has no value for human intelligence.

Also, modern subjectivism identifies a person as an autonomous individual, singular, who exists in self and for self. Kant and subjectivism are wrong!

The Holy Trinity is not a mystery in the sense that it is unknown, unknowable, it is not a philosophy, not a theology, not a metaphysics, not an idea.

The Holy Trinity is a fact. The fact through which we are able to say 'I am a Christian.' Christian faith is Trinitarian; it is on the one hand neither deist or theist, and on the other hand it is neither tri-theist nor polytheist nor pantheist.

We believe in One God who is Three Persons, based on God's revelation of Himself to us. Out of love for humanity, God took flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, generated from the Father. The bond of love between the Father and the Son is expressed in the Person of the Holy Spirit, this very Spirit is communicated to us.

How do we know this? God is the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth.

The Father, fatherhood...how essential for us. The presence or absence of the Father, and our ability or inability to relate to the Father, determines who we are.

The Son took flesh, and dwelt among us, and to those who accepted him he gave power to become children of God.

In so doing, we receive the Holy Spirit, supernatural life dwelling within us, which allows us to call God Abba, Father. We are co-heirs with Christ.

This is not wishful thinking. Our prayer is addressed specifically to God as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. The answer to that prayer is the principal mark of Christianity, which is charity – the gift of self to others.

Happy Feast Day!

Fr. Sean