

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

The Easter season ends with Pentecost. What does the present Feast of the Most Holy Trinity mean a week after Pentecost? I believe it is designed to highlight how the great revelation of Jesus' Paschal Mystery and of the gift of the Holy Spirit is itself a **sublime revelation of love**.

A **love** that looked after the people of God, freed it from slavery and gave it the Ten Commandments to help it to live on the path of true life and not to fall back into slavery. To Moses God reveals himself as 'gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity' (Ex 34:6), willing to daily walk by his people, after it was freed, toward the Promised Land, towards Heaven.

A **love** that showed itself in a special and extraordinary manner in Jesus Christ, particularly in his passion and resurrection. A love that permanently acts through the power of the Holy Spirit, which is given us so that we may evermore become children of God in the image of Jesus and may evermore live as brothers and sisters. Jesus taught us to call God 'Our Father,' to consider him as a good Father, who knows us better than we ourselves do, who loves us and takes care of us, his children. Jesus promised us his Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, who would witness to Jesus in the hearts of his disciples.

Jesus brought it home to us that there exists a wonderful relationship of love between Father and Son and Holy Spirit, that the **Son** trusts the Father will always listen to him (Jn 11:42), that the **Father** entrusts the Son with all judgement (Jn 5:22), that the **Son**, as soon as he returns to the Father, will send the **Holy Spirit**, so that the latter may teach us to grasp that love and give us the strength to learn to put it in practice ever better.

We believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26). Jesus revealed us that not only is God love, but that God himself is a wonderful communion between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and that he is and will be with us up to the accomplishment of the Kingdom of God, where love will be perfect, and God will be all in all (1Cor 15:28). Jesus always taught that our God is not locked up in his heavenly paradise, but is constantly searching for the lost sheep, for each of his children, even the one who is farthest away and most hopeless. The Most Holy Trinity is – we may say – a BEING TOGETHER TO.

TOGETHER in the finest love, that of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, a love made of trust, mutual sharing, full openness of the one to the other.

And together TO give life to every man and woman, for them in turn to passionately give everyone their own love, which is love and joy.

We are made in the image and likeness of such a God, who is Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are made, just like our God, for communion with one another and for our mission.

We proclaim our faith in the Most Holy Trinity not only when we say the Creed, but also at the end of prayers in Mass, when we say: 'through our Lord Jesus Christ, your

Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.’ And even more often when we make the sign of the cross and we say ‘in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’ It is precisely on the cross that God reveals that profound harmony between the Father, who grants Jesus to live out as the Son of God even the extreme situation of passion, and the Holy Spirit, who will grant the disciples to understand and live out a love such as Jesus’s. Making the sign of the cross means raising one’s eyes towards the Father, who loves us and knows us, means opening one’s heart to the Lord Jesus and, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, reaching out to our brothers and sisters.

That is why we start every prayer and every cell group meeting by making the sign of the cross. That is why, whenever we face danger, we make the sign of the cross. That is why we make draw the sign of the cross on a brother, a child, a friend who are leaving. As was done for each of us at the time of our baptism, by which we entered the crucible of the love of the Most Holy Trinity.

May the present feast of the Most Holy Trinity, being so linked with the International Seminars of the Cell System of Evangelisation, which always ended on this Sunday holiday, be a proclamation of hope for all the participants in the Extraordinary Seminar which ends today: the hope that we dwell within a communion which sustains us and fills us with joy. Let it also be an invitation to look ahead, to look at those who are waiting for you in your parishes and in your oikos.

May the most Holy Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, lead us to better and better understand the greatness and the beauty of His love and may it give us the strength to bring it to so many brothers and sisters who need to discover it to be able to live on it and to let other people live in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.