**“Holy Trinity”**

Today we celebrate the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God in three equal persons. Though each is fully complete, but united as one God. The Holy Trinity is a truth that is difficult for us to fully understand. The Trinity is one of the mystery of our faith. It is a truth that gave the early Church a lot of grief especially during the fourth Century.

In the fourth century, one man, Arius started a teaching that says, Jesus Christ was only human and not divine. This way of thinking, of course, throws out of the window, the concept of the Trinity. Arius had many followers among who were many bishops. To counteract Arius, another erroneous group came up with another teaching that says, Jesus was divine but not human. This concept also had a bad smell about our salvation and the fact that God is a Spirit that cannot die.

However, God raised up two men in St Athanasius and St. Ambrose to defend the authentic teachings of the Church. Athanasius on one hand, used Philosophy to defend the Trinity and the two natures of Jesus Christ. He touched the minds of many through the power of the Holy Spirit about the mystery of the three persons in one God. St. Ambrose on the other hand, used music as the Gateway to the hearts of many people. He used beautiful songs praising the most Holy Trinity.

You see, my brethren, Arius was a master song writer who composed popular anti-Trinity songs for soldiers, theological chants for merchant marine. In the end, St. Ambrose beat him at his game because Arianism does not exist anymore! Though there are some sects that exist in our present day world that are close to it. However, they are no longer in the true Church. Or they would be called heretics.

In our time we have heard lots of songs that have evoke emotions in the hearts of many. Some moved people to join the peace movement. Songs such as ***“We shall overcome.” and “We are the world.”*** Our songs as Christians fighting the war for our salvation, just as St. Ambrose’s song are, must be rooted in the Trinity. The Three Person in One, united and undivided.

Heresy is what St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians talked about. He told the Corinthians to mend their ways and to agree with one another. Actually, St. Paul put it more eloquently when he said, **“For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths”** (2 Timothy 4:3-4). So Paul is directing us to go back to the roots of Christianity and not believe in fuzzy theology.

Paul in the letter to the Corinthians, then gave them the Trinitarian blessing by saying, the grace of Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. This is the same blessings a priest proclaims at the beginning of every Mass after we sign ourselves in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The signing and prayer reminds us of the Trinity. The Father loves us with His eternal love, Son bestows His grace on us, and the Spirit who is the love between the Father and the Son have fellowship with us. What a powerful prayer!

In our Gospel reading, St. John tells us why God sent His Son into the world. He sent Him because, our God, loves us, with the same love (the Holy Spirit) that is the love between Him and His beloved Son. God sent His Son not to condemn the world but to save it. While God’s will is that all will be saved, however, there are some who would reject this love of God! They will not want any part of it. They are like the people Moses referred to as the stiff-necked people.

My brothers and sisters, if only they understood what they are rejecting, they will immediately ask for pardon for their wickedness and sins as Moses said in our first reading. They will come to know that Jesus came to adopt us as sons and daughters of God so we can participate in the life of the Holy Trinity. By our adoption, we become one of the members of the Trinity.

It is through the Son that we will be able to share in this eternal exchange of love between the Father and the Son. This mystery happens for us, through the grace of the Son. We get this grace of the Son, by believing in Him and by holding on to the true teachings passed on to us. As it was in the fourth Century, Christianity is experiencing a barrage of false teachings that would lead many astray. My brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to hold on and never let go.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for His grace to hold on to what has been passed on to us.