

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

by Fr. Antony

The Holy Trinity

“The Holy Trinity: He who will try to understand the Trinity fully will lose his mind, but he who denies the Trinity will lose his soul. “

The central mystery of our faith is that there is only One God; and the One God is three persons, each having the fullness of the divine nature, who is in perfect communion of love. This can really be difficult for our simple minds to understand. How can man fully comprehend God’s infinite makeup when he cannot fully comprehend his own finite makeup? Though we have references in the Old Testament, it is Jesus, the second person in the Trinity, who reveals the Father and the Holy Spirit to us (**Jn1:18**). It pleased God in his goodness to reveal Himself, and God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his son, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (**CCC 50-51**).

God, in his perfect communion of love, calls us closer to him. The actual distinctions of three divine persons are defined by the role they play in the salvation history. God, the Father, created us to share in his life for ever. But sin separated us, and in his great mercy God sent his son Jesus Christ to redeem us. The Holy Spirit comes to empower us and make God’s life available to all men and women (**Jn 14: 23-26**).

THE HOLY TRINITY IN SCRIPTURE:

We have many references in the scripture which speak about the Holy Trinity.

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| *There is but one GOD | <i>Ex 3:14, Deut 6:4, Jn 17:3</i> |
| *There are no other gods | <i>Is 43:10-12, 44:6, 1Cor 8:4-6</i> |
| *GOD is the creator | <i>Ps 90:2, Is 44:24, Heb 3:4, 11:3</i> |
| *GOD is the Father | <i>1Cor 8:4-6, 2Pet 1:17</i> |
| *The Father is Lord | <i>Gen 2:8-9</i> |
| *The Son is GOD | <i>Jn 1:1-3, Col 1:16</i> |
| *The Son is Lord | <i>Jude 4</i> |
| *The Holy Spirit is GOD | <i>Job 33:4, Act 5:3-4</i> |
| *The Holy Spirit is Lord | <i>2Cor 3:17</i> |
| *Three persons in one GOD | <i>Gen 1:26, Mt 28:19, 2Cor 13:14</i> |
| *Father, Son, Holy Spirit | <i>Mt 3:16-17, Mk 1:9-11, Jn 14:26, 1Cor 12:4-6</i> |

THE HOLY TRINITY (TRI-UNITY) DOCTRINE IN ITS BAREST OUTLINE, IJN 5:7-8

In the one divine nature, there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. No one of the persons is either of the others, each is wholly Himself.

The Father is GOD, the Son is GOD, and the Holy Spirit is GOD. They are not three GODS but one GOD. They are distinct but are NOT separate. Where one is, all are. The Holy Trinity, one GOD, and three divine persons, functions in an individual yet collective way. **1Cor 12:4-6.**

“A Word, (the Son) does not exist without a Speaker (the Father), and one cannot be a Speaker without a Breath (the Holy Spirit); just as the Word cannot exist without a Breath. Thus GOD acts as one. He does not send the Son independently from the fullness of the divine nature. It is the Father and the Son and the Spirit doing the speaking. It cannot be otherwise, since They are consubstantial in Their divinity.”

THE TWO SMALL PRAYERS ACKNOWLEDGING AND PRAISING THE HOLY TRINITY

We have two small prayers of our catholic faith that acknowledge and praise the Holy Trinity

(1) ***The sign of the cross –In the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

The making of the sign of the Cross is a very ancient practice. It probably goes back to the apostolic times, and was in common use in the second century. The sign of the cross is the most frequently used physical sign of belief in the Trinity. The words we use in making the sign, together with the action performed, demonstrates our belief in the principal truths of our religion. We say: “In the name”- not names- and thereby express our faith in the unity of God. We mention the three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and thus show our belief in the Blessed Trinity.

The sign of the cross, made with the hand, manifests our faith in the incarnation, death and resurrection of our Lord and shows that we regard Him not only as God but as man - for that he might be able to die on the cross, it was necessary that He should possess a human nature. Thus, we have in this brief prayer a summary of the most important articles of our faith.

(2) *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Sprit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*

The prayer “Glory be to the Father.....” is a short verse of praise to God. The first part of the prayer demonstrates belief in the Blessed Trinity and acknowledges our praise of due to Him. The second part, “As it was...,” shows our understanding of God and demonstrates the nature of God in all his Glory.