0x.xx.17 Next Creed Discussion

“I Believe in One God”

# The Trinity

CCC 234-235

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life… It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the ‘hierarchy of the truths of faith.’” (234)

This paragraph (232-260)

1. How the Blessed Trinity was revealed
2. How the Church has articulated the doctrine of the faith regarding this mystery
3. How, by the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father fulfills the “plan of his loving goodness” of creation, redemption, and sanctification.

**How do you experience the Trinity?** (In your prayer life, in the sacraments, in your daily life, in your theology…)

When making mankind in His image, He did not create a series of independent beings. Male and Female he created them, for God is love, and God is in communion with God. (I think this is a paraphrase from *Men and Women are from Eden*. *c.f.* CCC 221, 371-372)

"The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity." (CCC 232)

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

* is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.
* It is the mystery of God in himself.
* It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them.
* It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith".” (CCC 234)

**Do you experience the persons of God individually or as one being? Which person of the trinity to do you relate most and least to?**

# The Father

[**239**](javascript:openWindow('cr/239.htm');) By calling God "Father", the language of faith indicates two main things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; and that he is at the same time goodness and loving care for all his children. God's parental tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood,62 which emphasizes God's immanence, the intimacy between Creator and creature. The language of faith thus draws on the human experience of parents, who are in a way the first representatives of God for man. But this experience also tells us that human parents are fallible and can disfigure the face of fatherhood and motherhood. We ought therefore to recall that God transcends the human distinction between the sexes. He is neither man nor woman: he is God. He also transcends human fatherhood and motherhood, although he is their origin and standard:63 no one is father as God is Father.

* first origin of everything
* transcendent authority
* goodness and loving care for all his children
* draws on the human experience of parents, who are in a way the first representatives of God for man.
* God transcends the human distinction between the sexes.
  + **How does our perception of a masculine God affect our relationship with him?**
* transcends human fatherhood and motherhood
* origin and standard [of motherhood and fatherhood]
  + **What did our Mothers teach us about God, personally, that is still evident in our relationship with God today?**
  + **What did our Fathers teach us about God, personally, that is still evident in our relationship with God today?**
  + **How can we show God to our children?**
  + **or how can we show God to people that look up to us (“spiritual children”)**

[**240**](javascript:openWindow('cr/240.htm');) Jesus revealed that God is Father in an unheard-of sense: he is Father not only in being Creator; he is eternally Father in relation to his only Son, who is eternally Son only in relation to his Father: "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

* no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
  + **How does Jesus reveal the Father to us?**
  + CCC 241: the apostles confess Jesus to be the Word: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"; as "the image of the invisible God"; as the "radiance of the glory of God and the very stamp of his nature"

# Appendix

The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the “mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God.”… [It is] “inaccessible to reason alone.” (from CCC 237)

[**221**](javascript:openWindow('cr/221.htm');) But St. John goes even further when he affirms that "God is love":44 God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret:45 God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.

[**237**](javascript:openWindow('cr/237.htm');) The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the "mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God".58 To be sure, God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit.