

- Back in Jesus' day, and well before that, people would grow crops and then use them to make materials that they would weave into blankets, tunics and other articles of clothing, which they would take and sell in the marketplace.
- But a portion of the material was set aside, soaked in water to strengthen the material and then dyed beautiful colors. When *these* items were sold at market, they sold for ten times the price of the other items.
- This process of adding value by soaking and dyeing the cloth was called "baptizing" the cloth.
- In our Gospel reading today, we hear Jesus tell His disciples to go out and "baptize" *people* of all nations. In other words, change them – make them stronger and of more value!
- And Jesus told His disciples how to do this. He said: "Teach them what I have taught you."
- And what did Jesus teach them? He taught them who God is and who they (and each of us) are called to be.
- Today the Church celebrates "Trinity Sunday", a day we are called to really focus on who God is and who we are called to be.
- (Pause and make the sign of the cross slowly upon yourself)
- Each time we make that sign (bless ourselves) we acknowledge to ourselves and to the world that we believe in the Holy Trinity.
- We say we believe in **one** God who is **three** persons. Notice we say we *believe* not necessarily understand.
- Also notice we don't say in the NAMES of the Father, Son and Spirit – We say in the NAME – One God, three persons.

- Today, Trinity Sunday, our Church reminds us that to really know that **one** God, we need to know those three persons. So let's reflect on all three.
- God has revealed Himself as Father. He truly is our Father. The creator of everything; who loves and cares about each one of us. In the vastness of the universe, with all God has created – He thinks about you, about me – how awesome is that!
- We encounter this person daily. Take a look outside today. Plants and trees and flowers are blooming with new life. Oxygen is pumping out of them to sustain us!! Our hearts beat, we take a breath – all because HE says so. Our loving Father is constantly creating and giving life.
- And rather than allowing us to view Him as some distant, far-off God, He chose to come live among us – God the Son.
- Jesus, sent to **show us** God's great love. Sent to reveal the Father, make Him visible and knowable. Jesus tells us: "When you see me, you see the Father". And what did we see? A teacher, a healer, -we saw forgiveness and compassion and loving service to others.
- God the Son, sent to show us, **by example**, how to love God and how to love each other. Sent to give up His life and rise again to show us the promise of eternal life.
- We encounter this "second person" of the Trinity also on a regular basis. Each time we **give love to and receive love from each other**, Jesus is present. And in a very unique, mystical and perfect way, we encounter Jesus when He nourishes us in the Holy Eucharist.
- And when this second person of the Trinity returned to heaven, we were not left alone. We were sent the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.

- In our second reading today, St. Paul reminds us we are led by the Holy Spirit to live as children of God. The Holy Spirit befriends us, accompanies us throughout our life on earth. What a great comfort to know this.
- God knows our world can be a difficult place at times. Difficult to determine the truth, difficult to find the right path in certain situations. God the Holy Spirit is always with us to lead us from confusion to clarity.
- The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and Teacher. Leading us to truth in every situation – if we take the time to listen and have the courage to trust.
- The Spirit reminds us of everything Jesus taught and leads us to an understanding of how to apply those teachings in our day-to-day lives. **The Spirit fills us with the love and presence of Jesus – because they are one!!**
- Our encounters with the Spirit are constant. We may not always choose to **do** right, but we usually **know** if we chose to do right or wrong. That voice inside us that let's us know – that is the Holy Spirit. We encounter the Spirit in silence, in prayer, in the sacraments and most commonly in the love and kindness of others.
- What an awesome God our God is! One God, three persons. Trinity is the truth about who our God really is. (Pause) **But it is also the truth about who we really are!!**
- Here is another important thing God has revealed to us. We are made in His image and likeness. When God created us He breath His Spirit into us. In other words, there is something of God, something of Trinity inside each of us.
- This means we are to permit the trinity to work in us, and through us. Called to be Trinity.
- Like the Father, we are to be creators. We are to create loving relationships at home, at school, at work. To create

marriages, families, communities that live in peace with each other. Married couples are allowed to partner with God in creating new life. We are called to use the gifts God has given us to create beauty in the world.

- Like the Son (Jesus) we are called to make God visible in the world by bringing God's mercy, compassion, healing and service to others (mostly through simple acts of love).
- Didn't our veterans do this? Giving selflessly to defend our freedoms, our faith and Christian values – so we pray in a special way this Memorial Day weekend.
- And being Trinity means like the Holy Spirit, we are called to lead others to goodness, to love - to God. To be counselors and teachers – to let others know God loves them dearly, God forgives them; they matter to God. There are countless people in our world desperate to hear this. It is our job to deliver the message.
- We are called to be an enduring influence, a spirit of truth in the lives of others – well beyond the time we are physically present with them.
- We are called to be Trinity. Sometimes you can only really understand something by doing it. The more we “do” Trinity, the more we can understand this great mystery.
- And make no mistake; we **can** do these things because there truly is something of God in each one of us. Something of Trinity in you and me.
- It is what Jesus means in that last line of today's Gospel passage, when He tells us that He “promises to be with us to the end of the age.”