

165 Trinity Sunday / June 7, 2009

“The highest form of knowledge that we can have is to know that we are surrounded by mystery.” (Albert Schweitzer)

- A. Two central doctrines of our Catholic faith: Incarnation / Trinity
- profound mysteries ... so filled with truth that our mind cannot comprehend them
  - mysteries that impact our lives deeply.
- B. For me, a poem by George Herbert has enriched my understanding of the Trinity

TRINITY SUNDAY

Lord, who hast form'd me out of mud,  
And hast redeem'd me through thy blood,  
And sanctifi'd me to do good;

Purge all my sins done heretofore:  
For I confess my heavy score,  
And I will strive to sin no more.

Enrich my heart, mouth, hands in me,  
With faith, with hope, with charity;  
That I may run, rise, rest with thee. (184)

- C. Two approaches to deepen our understanding of the Trinity
1. The road of theology: categories describing the mystery
    - Father, Son, Holy Spirit / Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier
    - Giver, Given, Giving / Light, Love, Life
  2. Another approach ... come to know our Triune God by living God's life
    - E.g. the Quaker Douglas Steere
    - one who encouraged others ... affirmed what was deepest in them = gave life
    - one who gave great time and energy to foster peace / reconciliation = unifier
    - one who taught and worked on ecumenism = how the Spirit was working in the world
- D. We search for a language on how to speak of the one God who created us, who came and lived among us, and who sustains us still - One God, three persons.
- E. Opening prayer:
- “Father,  
you sent your Word to bring us through  
and your Spirit to make us holy.  
Through them we come to know the mystery of your life.  
Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons,  
by proclaiming and living our faith in you.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

