



# THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

### THE FLAME



March 2020 issue



#### **In Praise of the Holy Trinity**

**By Beth Renwick**

**Written January 14th, 2015**

The Catechism says that the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. Everything begins and ends with the Trinity. Analyzing the attributes of God and the relationship of the persons in the Holy Trinity has been fruitful in my spiritual life. God has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That intrigues me. Over the years I have tried to find new ways to praise God, to discover new approaches to thinking about God that would lead me to praise and worship in a more profound way. I love worship under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and seek more opportunities for the consolations of that experience. At one time I read about listing the names of God and naming His attributes as a means to prime the mind and heart toward praise.

In the early 1990s I came across a prayer to the "Indwelling Holy Trinity" which moved me in a very special way. Over the years certain phrases and sections of the prayer have come to mind at different times. The prayer was written by an American nun who lived from 1916-2000, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil. You may have heard of her as she received visitations and revelations which led to the devotion to Our Lady of America. Another American nun, Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity

who died in 1906 and was beatified in 1984, preceded Sister Mildred Mary in devotion to the indwelling presence of the Holy Trinity. Both nuns understood the awesome mystery and grace of the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity as the "secret of secrets," the way to holiness, described as "an interior engagement and espousal with the Living God."

The Prayer to the Indwelling Holy Trinity that I mentioned before calls God the Father, "Infinite Goodness." It says, "Oh Father, Infinite Goodness, behold your child, clothed in the likeness of Your Son, extend to me your arms that I may belong to you forever." What beautiful imagery! I love seeing myself "clothed in the likeness of "the Father's Son" and God the Father extending His arms to me. But I am also struck by calling the Father "Infinite Goodness." The first time I saw the prayer which was about 12 or so years into my spiritual revival and the very idea of goodness or being good made me think of myself as a little girl wanting to be good. My parents expected me to be a "good girl" and I wanted to be. I got off track for a bit and wasn't such a "good girl" but this led me to think about my folly in ever thinking that I could be good without God's help. This idea of His goodness being infinite gave me a lot to think about. It was this idea of God's unfailing goodness that led me to trust in Him.

Sometime in the last 10 years, I began an intellectual and spiritual pursuit beginning with that title for God the Father, as "Infinite Goodness." I took the word Infinite and applied it to the Trinity itself and came up with, the Trinity as Infinite Love, the Father, Infinite Goodness, the Son, Infinite Mercy. My sister Jude was visiting when I was pondering over the Holy Spirit. She suggested Infinite Wisdom and I knew it was right. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit could have been used but I settled on Infinite Wisdom not only because my sister suggested it but also because it was the most intriguing of the gifts when I rediscovered the Gifts of the Spirit as an adult.

### In Praise of the Holy Trinity cont'd

Thinking about God's infinite goodness is such a wonderful way to put life events in perspective. The same goes for thinking of Jesus as Infinite Mercy. So much good fruit has been born in me through the Divine Mercy devotion. Naming the Trinity as Infinite Love was easy due to St. Augustine's teaching that the Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son. That dynamic, creative love is always moving between each person and among the three. In *The Trinity As History*, a book by Bruno Forte, he describes the inner life of the Trinity. He names the Father as Lover; the Son, the Beloved; and the Holy Spirit, Love Itself.

Over time, I began to use other words like Eternal, Enduring, Absolute to describe the Trinity and each person. In late May 2013, I went to Confession just before Trinity Sunday. The Penance given to me was to meditate on the Trinity in preparation for the coming celebration. It seemed like a confirmation from the Holy Spirit of the mental gymnastics I had been doing with the Trinity. I've been at it again lately so decided to share with you.

Another phrase that caught my attention was "Eternal Majesty." I came upon that one morning at Daily Mass, when I heard it in the Opening Prayer. I applied God's "Eternal Majesty," to the Father. For Jesus the Son, I used, Eternal Word, for the Holy Spirit, Eternal Breath of Life and for the Trinity, Eternal Mystery. You see how I try to capture something of the person of the Trinity with the attribute.

I am a lover of words and at some point was struck by God's endurance. I described the Father with Enduring Loyalty, the Son, Enduring Commitment, the Spirit as

Enduring Light and the Trinity as Enduring Inscrutability. Next it was Absolute and the Father's attribute is Absolute Righteousness, The Son is Absolute Justice, the Holy Spirit, Absolute Truth and the Trinity: Absolute Knowledge.

Later I added, Immeasurable. As in the Father, Immeasurable Worthiness; the Son, Immeasurable Humility; the Spirit, Immeasurable Insight and the Trinity: Immeasurable Glory. Two weeks ago it was the word Perfect. The Father, Perfect Provision (He provides all I will ever need; His plan for me is perfect); The Son, Perfect Sacrifice (His Sacrifice is the most perfect); The Holy Spirit, Perfect Counsel (He will give me the words for every situation); and the Trinity, Perfect Unity (they are ONE, they cannot disagree).

Last week I came across the word unbounded as an adjective and began my search for the right fit with each person of the Trinity: The Father, Unbounded Generosity; The Son, Unbounded Compassion; The Spirit, Unbounded Gentleness; and all together as the Trinity, Unbounded Grace.

On Sunday at Mass (January 2015), Fr. Joseph Mulroney spoke of joy, the joy we should know in our hearts as Baptized Christians. So, I began with the Holy Spirit as my Truest Joy. Within seconds I recalled a prayer to Jesus, as My Only Hope. Peace, who is my peace, the Spirit, yes, the Trinity, yes but I needed something bigger. Ah, the Trinity is my All in All, and the Father is My Beginning and My End. I also played with Most High, Universal and language related to royalty and the Kingdom (King of Kings, Prince of Peace) but left the development of those to another day.

## In Praise of the Holy Trinity cont'd

This is how I would pray this prayer of praise:

*I adore you, O God, Most High. One God, three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*I praise you, O Blessed Trinity, Infinite Love, Eternal Mystery, Enduring Inscrutability, Immeasurable Glory, Absolute Knowledge, Perfect Unity, Unbounded Grace. You are My All in All.*

*I worship you, Father, Creator, Infinite Goodness, Eternal Majesty, Enduring Loyalty, Immeasurable Worthiness, Absolute Righteousness, Perfect Provision, Unbounded Generosity. You are My Beginning and My End.*

*I exalt you, Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior, Lord, Redeemer, Infinite Mercy, Eternal Word, Enduring Commitment, Immeasurable Humility, Absolute Justice, Perfect Sacrifice, Unbounded Compassion. You are My Only Hope.*

*I extol you, Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, Advocate, Sustainer, Infinite Wisdom, Eternal Breath of Life, Enduring Light, Immeasurable Insight, Absolute Truth, Perfect Counsel, Unbounded Peace. You are My Truest Joy.*

*I love you. I thank you. I praise and exalt you. I honor and adore you. I need you. I want more of you and less of me. You are my all in all.*

*Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit*

*Infinite Love, Infinite Goodness, Infinite Mercy, Infinite Wisdom*

*Eternal Mystery, Eternal Majesty, Eternal Word, Eternal Breath of Life*

*Enduring Inscrutability, Enduring Loyalty, Enduring Commitment, Enduring Light*

*Immeasurable Glory, Immeasurable Worthiness, Immeasurable Humility, Immeasurable Insight*

*Absolute Knowledge, Absolute Righteousness, Absolute Justice, Absolute Truth.*

*Perfect Unity, Perfect Provision, Perfect Sacrifice, Perfect Counsel.*

*Unbounded Grace, Unbounded Generosity, Unbounded Compassion, Unbounded Peace.*

*My All in All, My Beginning and My End, My Only Hope, My Truest Joy.*

God is indeed worthy, committed, loyal, faithful, kind, and strong. He is protector, provider, and planner. He fills us with peace, joy, healing and so much more. There are many more words, many more attributes for God but this is where I have come since first discovering the idea of the Father's infinite goodness some 25 years ago. Our human mind can never fathom the mystery of the Trinity. Even with supernatural Faith, we cannot fathom it, but can only grasp at its utter transcendence and awesomeness. This is how I try to grapple with who God is.

## March promises taken from 365promises.org

MARCH 1 -The earth belongs to Me and all that is in it. Psalm 24:1

MARCH 2 –My throne will stand forever and justice will reign in My kingdom. Psalm 45:6

MARCH 3 -The grass will dry up and flowers will fall, but My Word will endure forever. 1 Peter 1:24-25

MARCH 4 - Though the mountains vanish, My unending love will never leave you. Isaiah 54:10

MARCH 5 - I have called you out of darkness into My glorious light. 1 Peter 2:9

MARCH 6 - I have chosen the weak things of this world to confound the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:27

MARCH 7 - I delight to reveal My kingdom to those with a childlike heart. Matthew 11:25-26

MARCH 8 - I have brought you close through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

MARCH 9 - Your old life has died and your new life is hid with Christ in Me. Colossians 3:3

MARCH 10 - The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you. Romans 8:11

MARCH 11 - I have blessed you in Christ with every heavenly blessing. Ephesians 1:3 3:6

MARCH 12 Commit all that you do to Me and your plans will be successful. Proverbs 16:3

MARCH 13- I am with you and I will help you because I am your God. Isaiah 41:10

MARCH 14 - I will never abandon you. Hebrews 13:5

MARCH 15 - I see all your hardships and I care about your suffering. Psalm 31:7

MARCH 16 - When you pass through turbulent waters, I will be close to you. Isaiah 43:2

MARCH 17 - My anointing will teach you all you need to know. 1 John 2:27

MARCH 18 - If you live in My secret place, you will find rest under My shadow. Psalm 91:1

MARCH 19 - I will give you My strength to help you stand in high places. 2 Samuel 22:33-34

MARCH 20 - Thousands may fall around you, but you will not be harmed. Psalm 91:7

MARCH 21 - I provide food for the hungry and justice for the oppressed. Psalm 146:7

MARCH 22 - My divine power will give you all you need to live a good life. 2 Peter 1:3

MARCH 23 - My mercy will overrule judgment. James 2:13

MARCH 24 - I will cause all things to ultimately work for your good. Romans 8:28- Humble yourself before Me and in time I will exalt you. 1 Peter 5:6

MARCH 26 - I have carved your name in the palms of My hands. Isaiah 49:16

MARCH 27 - Never tire of doing good, for in time you will reap a harvest. Galatians 6:9

MARCH 28 - An eternal crown awaits you at the finish line, so keep running your race. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

MARCH 29 - I prepared a kingdom inheritance for you when I created the world. Matthew 25:34

MARCH 30 - It is precious for Me to see My faithful ones come home. Psalm 116:15

MARCH 31 - I will not forget My promises because I am a merciful God. Deuteronomy 4:31