

LIVING FAITH

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 10:26-33



'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL



"Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." What a beautiful image this is! Most people, at some point in their lives, wonder about their own worth; and some are preoccupied with questions about it. Jesus makes it clear in today's Gospel that God places great, even inestimable, value on each one of us, counting every hair on our head, in much the same way as a mother would with a dearly-loved child. So, why should we be afraid? We are children of a God who loves us. The only appropriate response is to thank God... and then, go and do likewise.

Is there someone in your circle of friends or family who is unsure of his or her value? Love them. Show them how much you value them. Love is a language of actions, not words. How will you show others the love of God today?

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BLESSING OF YOUNG DRIVERS

About the Blessing

Getting a driver's license is a marker event in the lives of young people and may be celebrated by the community as an acknowledgment of the teens' growth and increased responsibility. This blessing may be offered annually for all young people receiving their driver's license in the past year, preferably on or near a time that has special significance for the young people. Possible dates might include any Sunday in summer, just prior to a spring prom, near school graduations, on World Youth Day in October, or during a back to school or fall homecoming event.

Ideas for Using this Blessing

At the end of Mass or after the homily, call all young people forward who have received a temporary or permanent driver's license within the past year. You may wish to have them hold up their license or a set of keys, to be blessed with holy water while the youth are blessed with holy water.

Invite a parent(s) to stand with the young people with a hand upon their shoulder, as the blessing is done as a visible sign of the support and as an acknowledgment of another step in the ongoing process of letting go.

Blessing of Young Drivers

Lord of our journeys,
Today we mark and celebrate a significant moment
in the lives of these young people.

As they prepare to assume the responsibility of drivers,
we ask you to gift them with wisdom
to make good choices as they navigate the roads they travel.
Provide them with safe passage as they make each journey.
Bless them with a clear mind
that they may steer away from any danger
they may encounter along the way.
And let them know of the hope they provide us
as they take this next step into maturity.
We ask all these things,
in the name of God who travels with us
throughout all our journeys. AMEN.



I Believe...

THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY

Reflections by Fr. Gregory Carruthers, SJ

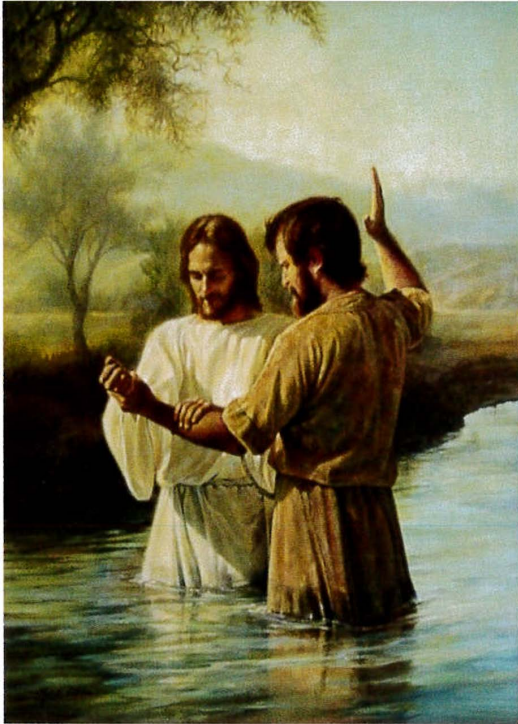
We notice right away that the Creed is divided into three parts: we profess faith first in God the Father, then in Jesus Christ his only Son, and then in the Holy Spirit. We recognize here the words we say when we make the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Notice we say "In the name" and not "In the names". This is because there is only One God: the almighty Father, his only Son, and the Holy Spirit. This Mystery of One God in three distinct Divine Persons we call the Mystery of the Trinity or Triune God.

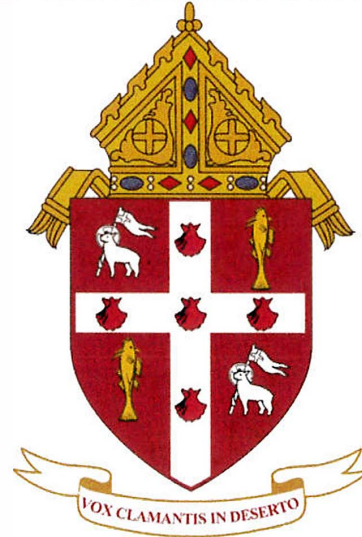
What makes God only One is the one Divine Nature. Each of the three Persons possesses that one divine nature fully, whole and entire. So there are not three gods but One God in three equal Divine Persons. Jesus revealed this Mystery to us.

The Trinity is a communion of the One Divine Life and Love among the three Persons. This Triune God wanted to share his own life and love. So the Father creates us for that purpose; the Son redeems us for that purpose; the Holy Spirit sanctifies us for that purpose.

The Mystery of the Trinity, therefore, is the central Mystery of our Christian faith and life. All the other Mysteries come from the Trinity and return to the Trinity - including us! The Trinity is our home address. In our baptism we are already, here on earth, taken into the communion of life and love among the three Persons. Our destiny - should we choose to accept it - is to return fully to the Trinity for an eternal life of happiness, gratitude and love with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and with each other.



JOHN THE BAPTIST
PATRON OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S
PATRON OF THE BASILICA-CATHEDRAL
ARCHDIOCESAN CREST



JUNE 24
ST. JOHN'S DAY
St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the city of St. John's, the Archdiocese of St. John's and the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The city of St. John's was so named because, on June 24, 1497, John Cabot arrived on our shores. By 1516, the name begins to appear on maps.

The shield of the Archdiocese of St. John's consists of a white cross on a red field, as does the shield in the coat of arms of Newfoundland. Red stands for the Passion and death of Christ and the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. The white cross represents the Church of Christ, the colour white signifying resurrection and eternal life.

The quarters of the shield bear, diagonally, two golden fish and two Paschal Lambs. The golden fish are symbolic of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for fish, "ICHTHUS", contains the initial letters of the phrase in Greek "Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Saviour". The fish chosen are codfish, to represent Newfoundland. The Paschal Lamb is the symbol of St. John the Baptist, the patron of the province, the city, the archdiocese and the Basilica. The shells in the arms and centre of the cross also represent our Patron saint, who, used a shell to pour water on those he baptized in the River Jordan.

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