

## Trinity Sunday

**Intro.** We are usually not very good with mystery. We try to take it apart so we can understand how it works. That's okay for a battery-operated toy or a toaster. We can see the parts and gears. It doesn't work so well with large mysteries like the universe. Yet we try.

**I.** The same is true of our relationship with God. It is recorded in the bible where we read that God has many manifestations of his presence. God as *creator*; we are made in the image and likeness. God as *liberator and guide*; our people were freed from oppression in Egypt and led through the desert. God as a *jealous* God; he asks for faithfulness. God as a *lover*; so much so that he sent his own Son to die to save us and open a way to eternal life. The Lord invited women and men to a new way of

understanding the world that includes caring for the outcast and marginalized and respecting the dignity of all people. The Holy Spirit gives life to us by whispering in our hearts and sometimes jolting us with his energy to continue God's work.

Most often God's presence is mediated through the events of our lives, through other people and even through our own actions. We have had experiences when "something" prevented us from a terrible accident or saved us from danger or serious sin.

That something is **not** coincidence or luck. I believe it is the presence of God; we just don't recognize Him. One of our members has struggled with serious and painful back problems for several years. Twice she has been literally at the door of the operating room for surgery and it was cancelled. She came home each time to wait weeks for another

date. Last Sunday night at Mass I asked prayer for her as she tried again Monday. No word Monday. Tuesday I saw it was a memorial feast for St. Rita of Cascia, in Italy. So what. Halfway through Tuesday morning Mass, it jolted me: it was her patron saint's day. I hoped it was a good sign. Tuesday afternoon, I got word that Rita had a hospital room, meaning she had the surgery. Never in my life was I so glad to hear someone was in the hospital! Wednesday I visited Rita; the surgery went well. I will believe our prayer and St. Rita's feast day were signs of God's presence. How? I don't really know. It's a mystery.

**Concl.** After several thousands of years, the universe is still pretty much a mystery. When there is a breakthrough discovery, it only unfolds *other* mysteries. We have learned much from plumbing the depths of the oceans and sending telescopes deep

into space. Much is still not known about either. But we keep coming back again and again, looking for understanding, each time learning a little more [*Living Liturgy*, 2018, Liturgical Press].

The same is true for the mystery of God in our lives. In the scripture for today we heard how God has been present throughout the history of his people. Moses reminded the people of what God had done in creating, liberating them and leading them to the edge of the Promised Land. The risen Lord promised to be with us always. Paul talked about how the Spirit leads to an on-going relationship with God. We cannot understand fully what is a mystery: the Trinity. We can discover God's presence in the workings of our lives without fully understanding how the Trinity works. We can keep coming back again and again and each time learning a little bit

more about the many ways God is present. Don't  
stop believing.