

## Trinity

**Intro.** Almost every day I read through the obituaries. Call it morbid or just trying to keep informed about the families of friends and classmates because I'm at a certain age. I am saddened by the loss to our community of wisdom and experience. I am also interested in the work people have done, the places they have been and the lives they have touched. I notice they are best identified by their relationships with other people. They are wife, husband; mother, father; son, daughter; auntie or uncle; Gigi or Papi. Teacher and mentor. **I.** As we conclude the Easter season, we reflect on several celebrations that define *our* relationship with God and are important to our Catholic faith. Next Sunday is the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord; in Latin, Corpus Christi. The Friday after that is the feast of our parish patron, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Before this pandemic, we

were planning a parish celebration bringing the Fleming Island and Green Cove Springs communities together to celebrate our history and diversity. Next year. Today's feast celebrates the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Trying to understand the Trinity theologically or logically has confounded many brilliant theologians and philosophers for centuries. We all know it's a mystery and as such our understanding is limited in this world. But that doesn't mean we leave it there. That theological or philosophical talk describes God as an abstract idea out in space somewhere. Sr. Mary McGlone, writes, "The superlative quality of the God we encounter through Scripture is love. God the creator, the God of Moses and the prophets, is the God who initiates, seeks and sustains everlasting union with creation. Rather than describing God as the first cause, the mover of the Big Bang, we would do better to conceive of God as the first and supreme

lover” [M. McGlone, NCR, 5/29-6/11/20]. Isn’t that a bit different? **God as the first and supreme lover.** Now we are talking about something we can get our hearts around. God desires to be in relationship with us.

**Concl.** Our relationships with each other are mysteries also. How can we explain the journeys of our lives? The so-called “wrong” turns and “missed” opportunities that resulted in meeting the loves of our lives or unexpected opportunities that led us in totally different directions and vocations. Think of the people who crossed our lives even briefly and became life-long friends. Our relationships with each other can be messy. How we are treating each other in this pandemic and in recent violence are examples. If we treat God with honor and respect how can we **not** treat one another the same? God creates all things out of Love and to Love because God is Love. We manifest our Love of God through

our Love of others, both in deep and casual relationships. [T/VR] If we know the love of a father or a mentor, God is there. Or a mother or teacher, that love is God. Or husband or wife, God is that love. Or an auntie or uncle. Or Gigi or Papi. Then we know the love of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Like relationships we value, we must take care of them. Our relationship with God nurtured in nature, in prayer, scripture, or quiet meditation will grow in love for Him and each other.

Fr. Michael Pendergraft,

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