

THE TRINITY

JESUS CHRIST REVEALED GOD AS A TRINITY OF PERSONS.

There are three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in one God. While separate and distinct *personally*, each

- shares fully in the *divine nature* and *will*;
- is **equally** infinite, perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-existing and eternally the same; and
- is **united together** in *perfect Love*.

In the Old Testament, the Trinity was only partially revealed.

- The book of *Genesis* notes the presence of the Trinity. The creation account reveals God speaking in the plural: "Let us make man in *our* image and likeness." The Father creates all *by means of* His Divine Word—"for He spoke and it came to be"—and by His Holy Spirit, who "moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).
- The presence of the Holy Trinity in the act of creation is also described in Psalm 33:6-9: "By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath (spirit) of His mouth."
- God also revealed Himself as a Trinity to the Patriarch Abraham and his wife Sarah by appearing to them in the form of three angels.



COMING TO TERMS

TRINITY is actually made up of two separate words:

TRI = *three*

NITY = *unity*

GOD THE FATHER

is the source of all things.

Because of His great love for mankind, He sent

GOD THE SON, JESUS CHRIST

into the world. Jesus Christ is the **only-begotten Son of God** and the **fullest revelation** of the Father. He became man—*while remaining God*—in order to save us. Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all, sent

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

to sustain us. The Holy Spirit is the **sanctifier, inspirer and comforter**. He proceeds from the Father and enables us to maintain our relationship with God.

THE TRINITY IN OUR LIVES

You are like stones for a temple of the Father, prepared for the edifice of God the Father, hoisted to the heights by the crane of Jesus Christ, which is the cross, using for a rope the Holy Spirit. Your faith is what pulls you up, and love is the road which leads you to God. You are, then, wayfarers all, bearing God, bearing a temple, bearing Christ, bearing holy things, and in every respect adorned commandments of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

—Saint Ignatius of Antioch

JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE FULLNESS OF THE TRINITY

The prologue to the Gospel of Saint John states: "No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has made Him known" (John 1:18). Jesus Christ makes the Trinity known in various ways.

- Prior to the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus was baptised in the Jordan by his cousin John. As Jesus descended into the water, the voice of God the Father thundered, "This is my beloved Son," while the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove.
- At the mystical supper, Jesus prayed for His followers, asking the Father to make them "one even as we are one." Jesus frequently spoke of God as His Father while promising to send the Holy Spirit to enable us to become God's *adopted* sons and daughters.

Jesus Christ, then, fulfills the revelation of the Trinity. He enables us to enter into a **living union** with "The Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 2:18-22).