



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



June 3, 2012

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Gospel Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."



Spiritual Reflection:

Catholic author and apologist Scott Hahn in his book *First Comes Love: Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity* points out that it is in this passage of Mathew's Gospel that Jesus reveals to us God's full name. The following quote from the book will help us greatly understand the importance of this revelation: **"Of course, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not "gender" terms, but relational terms. The language of the divine family is theological, not biological. The terms, rather, describe the eternal relations of the divine Persons who dwell in communion...**

Those terms are not arbitrary. God Himself has revealed them, and they most perfectly express Who God eternally is. The Trinity is God's personal identity, which does not depend upon creation. Other titles—such as Architect, Shepherd, and Physician—are metaphorical terms that describe His relationship to creature in creaturely terms. God is "architect" only after fashioning the universe. He is "Physician" only when He has imperfect creatures who need healing. He is "Shepherd" only when He has creatures to guide and protect. Yet, before creation, from all eternity, He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is His proper name. Only "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," the divine name, reveals God's essential identity in terms that do not depend upon creation...

We were no longer naming God in terms of Who God is, from eternity. Rather, we were addressing Him Simply in terms of what He has done—for us, in history. Of course there is nothing wrong with acknowledging God's works (of creation, redemption, and sanctification): but, the act of thanksgiving is a lesser expression of worship than praise--which we render precisely for Who God is."



Spiritual Questions

1. How important is it to know someone's name in a relationship?
2. Looking at the terms "father," "son," and "holy spirit" as theological terms and not relational is there any new meanings or insights for you.
3. How would you feel if people only referred to you by what you did for them?
4. Have you ever been called the wrong name? How did it make you feel?
5. How can you show a greater respect for God's name?