

**Homily for June 11, 2006  
Trinity Sunday**

**By Father Charles Bowes**

**Deuteronomy: 432-34, 29-40**

**Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22**

**Romans 8:14-17**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

## *The love we live is in the image of God's own love.*

One of the reasons I entered the seminary was to try and understand God and thereby get on with life. I had a kind of love/hate relationship with God – figuring I had been saddled from birth with too much religion, since my family was both Catholic and Jewish – and I wanted to meet God head on, so to speak, to solve once and for all the problem God posed for me, to put the questions about God behind me and then move on.

Well, what I found was that God really wasn't a problem to be solved, but was all wrapped up in mystery – a mystery to be lived, as one writer put it. And one of the biggest mysteries of all was, of course, the Trinity. As one brought up in a household of mechanics and engineers, the whole business of mystery didn't appeal to me one bit. So, as a frustrated college student, I early on asked my professor who was discussing the Trinity: "If it's a mystery and we can't understand it, why do we have to waste all this time talking about it?"

And with the patience of Job, the prof explained that this mystery helps us experience God's love for us. The fact that we never fully understand this great

mystery makes us realize that there will always be more surprises about God's love for us to think about. And when we creatures choose to love and be loved, something of the divine is revealed.

He then went on to explain that a mystery, in the sense that it is used in Christian thinking, is not something that cannot be known...but something that cannot be fully known. To turn it around a bit, one might say that a mystery is something that is endlessly and inexhaustibly knowable. Like the onion, each layer of understanding leads to another layer.

The more I thought about it, the more I took comfort. I like knowing that in the great computer system of the universe, there are no firewalls. Hackers are welcome. Any knowledge that I can seek can be gained. God does not want me to stop asking, to stop thinking. God wants to be revealed. God wants a relationship with me that includes all my questions, all my curiosity, all my doubts and all my limitations. In other words, God made us so that God might have someone to whom he could give – someone to whom he could give himself – give himself to us as we are and where we are. When we name God Trinity, we are saying more than we can possibly understand about who God is. Our language exceeds our understanding. But then we speak it, and we hear it, and we live it. Together we reveal what was revealed to us: just a little more of what is endlessly knowable.

In Toni Morrison's work, entitled "Song of Solomon," there is a scene at the very end of the novel. Two of the protagonists, Pilot and Milkman, are talking softly. He is holding her, for she has been shot. "She sighed, 'Watch Reba for me.' And then 'I wish I'd a knowed more people. I woulda loved 'em all. If I'd a knowed more, I woulda loved more.' Now he knew why he loved her so. Without ever leaving the ground she could fly.."

Let us pray: Lord, you have made us little less than the angels. May we always live as you have made us, in your image. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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of God's own love.