



DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

from the *Compendium of the Catechism*:
paragraphs 43 - 50

IF I SAY, “I BELIEVE IN ONLY ONE GOD”, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Well, to believe in the one and only God involves a process of coming to know his greatness and majesty. It also involves living in thanksgiving and trusting always in Him, even in adversity, and, among other things, it involves knowing the unity and true dignity of all human beings, created in His image.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE?

The mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity is central to Christian faith and life. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAN THE MYSTERY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY BE KNOWN BY THE LIGHT OF HUMAN REASON ALONE?

God has left some traces of His Trinitarian Being in creation and in the Old Testament but His inmost Being as the Holy Trinity is a mystery which we cannot arrive at by reason alone. This mystery was revealed by Jesus Christ and it is the source of all the other mysteries.

WHAT DID JESUS CHRIST REVEAL TO US ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF THE FATHER?

Jesus Christ revealed to us that God is “Father” not only because He created the universe and mankind, but above all, because he eternally generated in his bosom the Son who is His Word, “the radiance of the glory of God and the very stamp of His nature” (Hebrews 1:3).

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED TO US BY JESUS CHRIST?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Most Blessed Trinity. He is God, one and equal with the Father and the Son. He “proceeds from the Father” (John 15:26) who is the principle without a principle and the origin of all Trinitarian life. The Holy Spirit also proceeds from the Son by the eternal gift which the Father makes of Him to the Son. Sent by the Father and the Incarnate Son, the Holy Spirit guides the Church “to know all truth” (John 16:13)

TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE HOLY TRINITY?

The three divine Persons are only one God because each of them equally possesses the fullness of the one and Indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other because of their relationship to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is generated by the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

HOW DO THE THREE DIVINE PERSONS WORK?

Inseparable in their one substance, the three divine Persons are also inseparable in their activity. The Trinity has one operation, sole and the same. In this one divine action, however, each Person is present according to the mode which is proper to him in the Trinity.

“Oh my God, Trinity whom I adore... grant my soul peace; make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling, and the place of your rest. May I never abandon you there, but may I be there, whole and entire, completely vigilant in my faith, entirely adoring and wholly given over to your creative action.”



St Elizabeth of the Trinity

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT GOD IS ALMIGHTY?

God reveals himself as “the strong One, the mighty One” (Psalm 24:8), as the One “to whom nothing is impossible” (Luke 1:37). His omnipotence is universal, mysterious and shows itself in the creation of the world out of nothing and humanity out of love; but above all it shows itself in the Incarnation and the resurrection of His Son, in the gift of filial adoption and in the forgiveness of sins. So the Church directs her prayers to the “almighty and eternal God.”

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis.