

We are all baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. When we renew our Baptismal Promises we proclaim our belief in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in turn, each profession of faith requiring our response of ‘I do’. We profess our belief in the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit every time we recite the Creed at Mass or say our Rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet and numerous other prayers.

The Trinity, 3 persons, 1 being, 1 God, the only true God. God who always was and always will be, who created everything and holds everything in being through an act of his will. “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life...the whole history of salvation is identical with the ways and means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to mankind and reconciles and unites himself to those who turn away from sin.” (CCC 234)

The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God... his inmost being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone...” (CCC 237)

I have always been that kid who had to know, why? As a youngster I would pester the Sisters for answers to questions I had about the Catechism and more often than not I would be told in a pre-Vatican II tone of voice; “That is an article of faith.” As an adult I’ve learned that there aren’t anywhere near as many mysteries, or ‘articles of faith’ as I was told as a child. I think the Sisters may have been trying to avoid the inevitable follow-on questions.

Our religion never insults our intelligence. We can logically explain our faith, the sacraments, why every part of the Mass is important and the list goes on. We can spend hours on Saint Thomas Aquinas’ 5 proofs that there is a God. But at the end of the day, it boils down to faith, which paradoxically is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The only way to approach the Holy Trinity is by faith. We watch and pray with the Priest while the miracle of Transubstantiation takes place during the Eucharistic Prayer in the Canon of the Mass, but the only way we know that it really happened is by faith. The examples abound, logic carries to a point, then the final gap, be it large or small must be crossed by faith.

Why is faith in God so hard for us? Not necessarily here, within the confines of the Church. In here, faith is like a favorite blanket or comfortable slippers. It just fits. No, the problems we have with faith in God are out there, in the messy world where it seems to be so hard that many times we don't even try.

However, in the same circumstances we don't have any issues having faith in man. We trust the person driving the vehicle toward us, with a combined closure rate of 120mph to be sober, paying attention, and stay in their lane of the road hundreds of not thousands of times a day. We usually don't know who fixes the brakes on our car, but we trust them to do a good job. We don't know who the pilot is or the mechanic who maintained the airplane, but we pay our money and zip through the air at 500mph at an altitude of 30,000ft without a thought. We trust our lives to fallible, imperfect people every day, but when things get a little tough, we have a problem trusting God.

I'm going to go out on a limb here, but I think the limb is quite solid and can bear the weight.

As a nation, as a people we have been incredibly blessed by God. We have freedoms, resources, and a combination of diversity and beauty in our people and our land unheard of in history and in the rest of the modern world. But in our hubris we have come to believe that these blessings are because of what we have done and denied God's generosity and his guiding hand on our nation.

We have turned our back on God and decided that we are gods, that is with a tiny, insignificant g, and have the right to decide who can be born, when people should die, and what physical attributes the person can have without any input from the Holy Trinity. These abhorrent actions have become enshrined in our laws and celebrated in the public square. Those who speak out against these offenses against God are publically castigated and ostracized. Just like the Old Testament Prophets, the Apostles and the Martyrs of every age.

We look around and see a world gone mad; paranoia, violence, economic hardship, and pending starvation. We can argue man's causation, but what we can't argue is God's role in this. Throughout scripture, Old and New Testaments, we read of how God disciplines and chastises those he loves to correct them from error and bring them back to him.

Look at the many examples of what he did with Israel in the Old Testament when they strayed too far from his teaching. Do we think that after that first Pentecost of the Christian era God changed his behavior? Do we think that he stopped watching, loving, and desiring that we turn back to him?

I believe that we are going through a period of chastisement, quite frankly because we have it coming to us just like those times as parents that we discipline our children. When we discipline children, it isn't to be cruel. We discipline them because we love them and want them to be better people. God loves us and wants us to turn back to him in thought, word and action.

How do we get through this? By faith in the Holy Trinity, faith in his love, faith in the fact that he knows what is best for us; and by putting our faith into action every single day.