

Once there was a popular debate on the existence of God between a priest and an avowed atheist.

The first to speak, the priest expounded with simplicity the classic proofs for God's existence. When he had finished, the atheist mounted the platform and disagreed, "If God exists, let Him kill me within five minutes." After that time elapsed, he was able to say, "God does not exist because He did not kill me." A roar of applause hailed the proof of the unbeliever as he ridiculed the priest's arguments.

The priest resuming the debate, requested a loaded gun, placed it in the hands of his opponent and asked him to kill him within five minutes. The distraught atheist didn't shoot. "This man beside me does not exist because he did not fire," cried the priest to the public, livid with emotion.

The many good deeds performed by that priest prevented the atheist from firing, and the priest said: "You have spared my life when I asked you to kill me, the same as God has spared yours when you dared Him to deprive you of your life." The

priest's argument made it very clear that not only does God exist, but He is a God who loves us and cares for us.

Last Sunday was the Major Feast in the Catholic Church about God. It is called the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, that is, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

What can we say about the Holy Trinity? This is the greatest mystery of our faith. By the use of reason, anyone can come to the conclusion that God exists. That has been clearly stated in the First Vatican Council by all the Catholic Bishops of the world united with the Pope. And one may conclude that this God who created everything create a beautiful, rational world where everything fits together.

But we would never have been able to know just by reason alone that the one God who created the universe is three persons. This is an amazing mystery. God is actually three persons in dynamic love with one another forever. Love is the

dynamic activity in the life of the Trinity. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, the Father loves the Holy Spirit, the Son loves the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit loves the Father and the Son. And this love is endless. It's forever.

How do we know all of this? Through Jesus. Jesus revealed it. Jesus revealed many mysteries. But the greatest mystery he revealed is that not only is HE god, but he has a Father who is God and that there is an Advocate, a Holy Spirit that is God too, but these these persons make up one God. We could have never figured that out. Our religion is a revealed religion. IT is not something we made up. We received all these truths from Jesus, the Son of God who became one of us so that we might be redeemed.

When you think about the Holy Trinity you can't help but be amazed. To think that eternal love is what motivates all of creation. Even with the mystery of sin and evil in the world because of free will, still Love is the all powerful reality behind

everything. We acknowledge the Holy Trinity in all kinds of ways. Everytime we pray we make the sign of the Cross we proclaim the three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that the Son died on the cross to redeem us. WE say in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We do not say in the “names” of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This way of saying it indicates that all three persons make up one God.

So powerful is the Holy Trinity that we use the sign of the Cross to bless people and objects. We use the sign of the cross to cast our demons from souls. And we use the sign of the cross to absolve the sins of sinners in confession. And when we begin Mass, we make the sign of the cross to begin our prayer. Everything is done in the name of the Holy Trinity.

And don't forget about Mass. When we celebrate Mass, we gather to offer due worship to God our Father. But the worship we offer him was established by His Son Jesus. AT the Last Supper Jesus instituted the Mass. And how is the Mass

structured? First we listen to God's inspired Word that enlightens us about the meaning of our lives, and gives us wisdom on how to live our lives, and lets us know truths that we could not otherwise know. WE need the Word to guide our souls and hearts. We need to know what is right and what is wrong. We need to know how we are to live our lives on earth. We need inspiration and consolation and the word of God gives us that.

After the word of God, we have the sacrificial part of the Mass. Through the Eucharistic prayer, Jesus' death is made truly present to us and Jesus changes bread and wine into His Body and Blood for our nourishment. We express our deep gratitude to God for all he does, and God does the greatest miracle beyond all imagination. He changes bread and wine into himself.

The sacrifice we offer is that of Jesus' death on the cross. This sacrifice God the Father always accepts. And the amazing thing is that you and I can join ourselves to Jesus at every Mass and offer all our works, joys and sufferings to God the Father through Jesus. And God accepts these through His Son Jesus and

turns about and bless us with Holy Communion. Brother and sisters, we are seeking greater communion with God at every Mass. Every Holy Communion brings about greater communion with the Father provided we receive communion in the state of grace.

And so as we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, who God is, let us be glad that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, brought us all into the life of the Trinity by becoming man uniting himself with our nature, dying in reparation for our sins, and bestowing upon us a share in the life of the Holy Trinity. WE are blessed indeed because our God is so good.