

The True God Is a Trinity

✠ The Mystery of the Blessed Trinity

- ⇒ The central and most important mystery of the Christian Faith.
- ⇒ God's self-revelation which we can only know through His gift of faith.

There are *three* Divine Persons in the *one* God.

- ➔ '*Mystery*' - A profound truth (a divine reality) that is above reason, but revealed by God.
 - (i) It does not contradict reason. It is not illogical. Yet man can't know it on his own.
 - (ii) We ought to contemplate these inexhaustible mysteries (truths) all our life.
 - (iii) Even in the Beatific Vision, these truths will, to some degree, remain a mystery.
 - (iv) The Greek word for 'sacrament' is '*mysterion*;' they are also profound divine realities.
 - (v) Recall the episode of St. Augustine at the seashore contemplating the Holy Trinity.

▢ Trinitarian Heresies

- * Tritheism - "Three Gods" - There are three divine, eternal and uncreated beings, each a divine person.
- * Monarchianism: Over-emphasis on one God only (usually the Father).
 - Adoptionsim: Jesus is a man adopted by God when the Spirit descended upon Him.
 - Sabellianism: One God Who has three modes of acting (like an actor with three masks / roles).
- * Arianism: Jesus is created; He is not equal to the Father; He is not God.
- * Pneumatomachians: The Holy Ghost is created; a denial that the Holy Ghost is God.

† From the Athanasian Creed

- ⇒ One of the four most important Creeds of the Catholic Faith.
- ⇒ Its origin is ancient. May have been authored by St. Athanasius (or St. Ambrose, or St. Vincent of Lerins or ?). It was certainly in use by the 5th century in the West.
- ⇒ Proclaimed *de fide* [infallibly] at the Council of Florence, 6th session, 22 Nov 1439.

"[W]e worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity. Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance... In this Trinity, there is nothing before or after, nothing greater or less. The entire three Persons are coeternal and coequal with one another... [He] who wishes to be saved, must believe thus about the Trinity..."

- ➔ Note: To correctly understand God's revelation, even about the most important mystery of our Faith and of who God is in Himself, we need more than just Sacred Scripture.

† From Sacred Scripture:

- ▲ Matthew 28:19 - Baptize in the *Name* of the Father, Son and Spirit. [Note: 'Name' is singular.]
- ▲ Ephesians 4:4-6: One Father, one Lord, one Spirit - one God.
- ▲ 1 John 5:6-7: Father, Word, Holy Ghost. - these three are one. [See Douay-Rheims.]