

THE TRINITY (A)

There is a beautiful Russian icon of the Blessed Trinity painted by a monk by the name of Rublev.

It shows the three divine persons sitting at a table.

A dish of food sits on the table.

But the thing that immediately strikes you is the fact that at the front of the table there is a vacant place.

That vacant place is meant to convey openness, hospitality and welcome towards the stranger and outsider.

That vacant place is meant for each of us and for all the human family.

It signifies God's invitation to us to join Him, to share in Him the life of the Trinity.

God does not exclude us or anyone.

He does not talk to us at the door step.

He invites us to come into His life and sit at His table.

He wants to share His life fully with us.

In the words of the gospel for this feast "God loved the world so much that He gave His only son..."

Many can be easily intimidated by the great mystery of the Blessed Trinity. That would be a pity.

We should see the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as friends. We can easily relate with them. We can relax and go to them and talk to them in prayer.

Because God's Son, Jesus befriended us we are no longer strangers and outsiders.

We are His children. We are His family.

He has already invited us to a place at His banquet, the Eucharist, here on earth.

To take our place at this Table we need to believe in His real presence, be free from serious sin and, out of respect, fast for one hour.

But He wants us also to prepare ourselves to take our place at His banquet of eternal life.

To do that all we have to do is sincerely try to imitate God, the Trinity, while we are here in the flesh. All God ever does is reach out and share Himself fully.

We imitate Him when we are not greedy and selfish but instead reaching out and sharing. Throughout our whole life we try, with the help of God's grace, to grow in the act of self-giving, sharing our total selves.

God is a God of love.

Our response can only be one of trust in Him and reaching out in love toward one another.

What St. Paul said to the Corinthians is meant also for us:

“Help one another.

Be united,

Live in peace

and the God of love and peace will be with you.”