

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This Sunday the Church celebrates what we have experienced of God communicating with us –The Feast of the Holy Trinity.

This has often been referred to, perhaps unfortunately, as the Doctrine of the Trinity. More than a doctrine, the Trinity is a communion of persons.

God is not alone, aloof, distanced, other, beyond, an unmoved mover, or somewhere over the rainbow. God is experienced by us as Love. This love is very close to us. For this reason, we are never alone. The love of the Father for the Son, and the love which the Son has for the Father. The love they share is itself so real that it is expressed as a third person, the Holy Spirit. God is a 'person' with an inner life of love. Every love implies a LOVER and a BELOVED and a LOVE that unites them. These 'three loves' make up the love which is God.

One person who knew the Trinity not only as a dogma, but as Love in her life was Elizabeth Catez. At the age of 21, much to the disappointment of many young men, and one in particular who adored her, she joined an enclosed monastery. She entered the Carmelite community in Dijon, and was given the name Elizabeth of the Trinity.

The first time I visited a Carmelite monastery was in Quebec where, with a group of seminarians I once spent Christmas. I was shocked by:

- 1) The beaming joy on the faces of the sisters there –old and young alike- and
- 2) The bars on the windows of the convent.

Speaking to us through a metal grill, the sisters explained the reason for the bars. "People think it's so that we won't escape! But the opposite is true. If they knew how happy we are here they would all want to get in, and since there is not enough room we need the bars to keep them out!"

She wasn't joking. And Elizabeth of the Trinity believed the same thing. She not only believed it, she experienced it, as evidenced in some of the letters and notes she wrote:

"I have found heaven on earth, since heaven is God, and God is in my soul."

"A soul united to Jesus is a living smile that radiates Him and gives Him."

"I can't find words to express my happiness. Here there is no longer anything but God. He is All; He suffices and we live by Him alone."

Each of us has been created in the image of the Love which is the Blessed Trinity. We do not need to enter a Carmelite convent to experience it. Our soul was created out of Love, and was created for Love. Why should we settle for anything less? May the Holy Trinity be received by each of us today, and may all of us - those who live behind bars and those who do not - be filled with heaven itself.